Defense: 9 firefighters can now be compelled to be vaccinated. PAGE 2
'CNMI's Moderna vaccines unaffected by Japan recall' PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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$882K in child tax credit out

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Around $700,000 sent via direct deposit
» Finance expects 7,000 people to register on portal, but 2,500 registered so far

The Department of Finance already distributed $882,000 in payments of the advance or increased child tax credit though direct deposit and checks, according to Division of Revenue and Taxation director Tracy Norita on Friday.

Of the $882,000 payments that have gone out, majority or around $700,000 went through direct deposit, she said at a radio press briefing.

"Eligible taxpayers will receive their payment as soon as we receive their information from them," she said.

So far, since launching the CNMI Advance Child Tax

See TAX on Page 4

IN CASE HE GETS JGO SUBPOENA

Governor hires DC law firm with impeachment expertise

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has hired a Washington, D.C.-based law firm known for its expertise in impeachment proceedings to represent him in the ongoing investigation of the House of Representatives Judiciary

See GOVERNOR on Page 4

MAGOFNA FILES HER CANDIDACY

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. budget officer Corina L. Magofna, fourth from left, files her candidacy Friday at the Commonwealth Election Commission on Capital Hill. Magofna is running under the NMI Democratic Party for the Oct. 16 special election for a House of Representatives Precinct 3 seat. Also in the photo are Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP); the CNMI's first governor, Carlos S. Camacho; Magofna's family members and supporters, and some NMI Democratic Party lawmakers and officials. Story on Page 5

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

5 more positive cases in CNMI

» Guam posts 151st COVID-19-related death, 51 hospitalized

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five incoming travelers were confirmed positive for COVID-19 last Friday, with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. reporting that this brings the CNMI's total to 248.

The individuals were identified through travel

See 5 MORE on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

- 'CNMI's Moderna vaccines unaffected by Japan recall' **PAGE 4**
- CHCC: CNMI seeing increased circulation of respiratory virus. **PAGE 11**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:47pm, Sept. 5, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	79.3%
Days since last community transmission	166

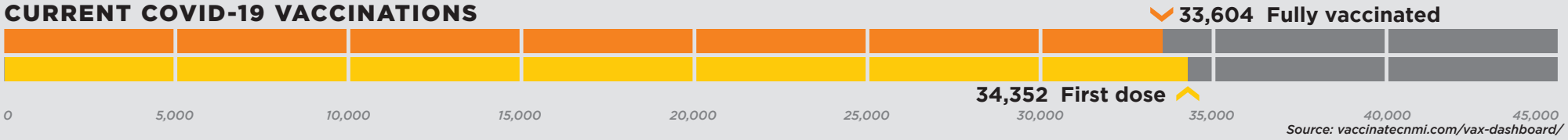
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,549
Fully Vaccinated:	28,561
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,803
Fully Vaccinated:	4,280
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	763

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	10,909	197	11,106
Recovered	8,996	130	9,126
Active	1,632	197	1,829
Deaths	150	1	151

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	243	5	248
Traced via Travel Screening	206	5	211
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
Nine students are honored as Saipan Community School's Students of the Month in August.
PAGE 13

LOCAL
Mount Carmel School reinstates student events, including the Student Leadership Retreat.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
ABBA is releasing its first new music in four decades, along with a concert performance.
PAGE 15

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Local

Defense: 9 firefighters can now be compelled to receive the vaccine

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense lawyer in the lawsuit filed by nine firefighters who were terminated for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine now argue that, with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recent approval of the Pfizer vaccine, the firefighters can now be compelled to be vaccinated and that renders moot their lawsuit, which is based on an alleged violation of their constitutional right.

According to assistant attorney general Keith Chambers II, the FDA approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, now commercially known as "Comirnaty," impacts the firefighters' constitutional procedural due process arguments because the alleged legal impediment that prevented the governor from mandating the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine is now gone.

"Pursuant to plaintiffs' arguments, plaintiffs can now be compelled to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine without having their procedural due process rights under the Commonwealth and the United States Constitutions being violated. 'Comirnaty' administration is not subject to Emergency Use Authorization or EUA rules. Therefore, [the US Constitution] no longer requires adult patients receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech CVOID-19 vaccine to be told that they have the 'option to accept or refuse' vaccination," he said.

Chambers said the FDA's approval of the Comirnaty shows that the vaccine is sufficiently safe for people in the plaintiffs' age range.

"Though plaintiffs may have their own personal beliefs regarding Comirnaty, the court is charged with weighing the reasonableness of plaintiffs' beliefs. The court should now find in the wake of the Comirnaty's approval that any fears plaintiffs had about the safety of the vaccine are unreasonable," Chambers said.

With the FDA approval, Chambers argues that the firefighters must effectively concede that, one, they can no longer rely on their procedural due process arguments to support their preliminary injunction, and two, rely on their procedural due process arguments to support their request for injunctive and declaratory relief on the merits.

See DEFENSE on Page 4

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Reimagining the Future of Power, Together

The Tinian Leadership's vision of an underground power line project connecting vital private and public sectors will soon become a reality.

In collaboration with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, and the CDBGR-DR: Office of Disaster Recovery, plans to revamp and rebuild a better and brighter future for the island of Tinian will soon be approved.

The CNMI CDBG-DR Program focuses on meeting the unmet need of the CNMI following the presidentially declared disasters of Typhoon Yutu (DR 4404) and Typhoon Mangkhut (DR 4386). The Infrastructure Program aims to rebuild and strengthen the CNMI's current facilities to build more resilient structures to withstand future disasters. The CNMI CDBG-DR infrastructure program will allocate funding to the following infrastructure categories: (1) Public Facilities, (2) Roads, and (3) Utilities.

"Because the CNMI is situated in the western Pacific, the typhoon belt location, the conventional way of overhead power distribution is becoming costlier as the frequency of major storms has increased in the last seven years. Thus, needing replacements of materials to restore power back to the community. This initiative will hopefully mitigate those concerns moving forward", according to Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider who chairs the Infrastructure committee in the Tinian & Aguiguan Legislative Delegation.

The Leadership extends its deepest gratitude to the collaborating partners, most especially its appreciation to the people of Tinian for their trust and support. ***(Press release provided by Tinian Leadership)***

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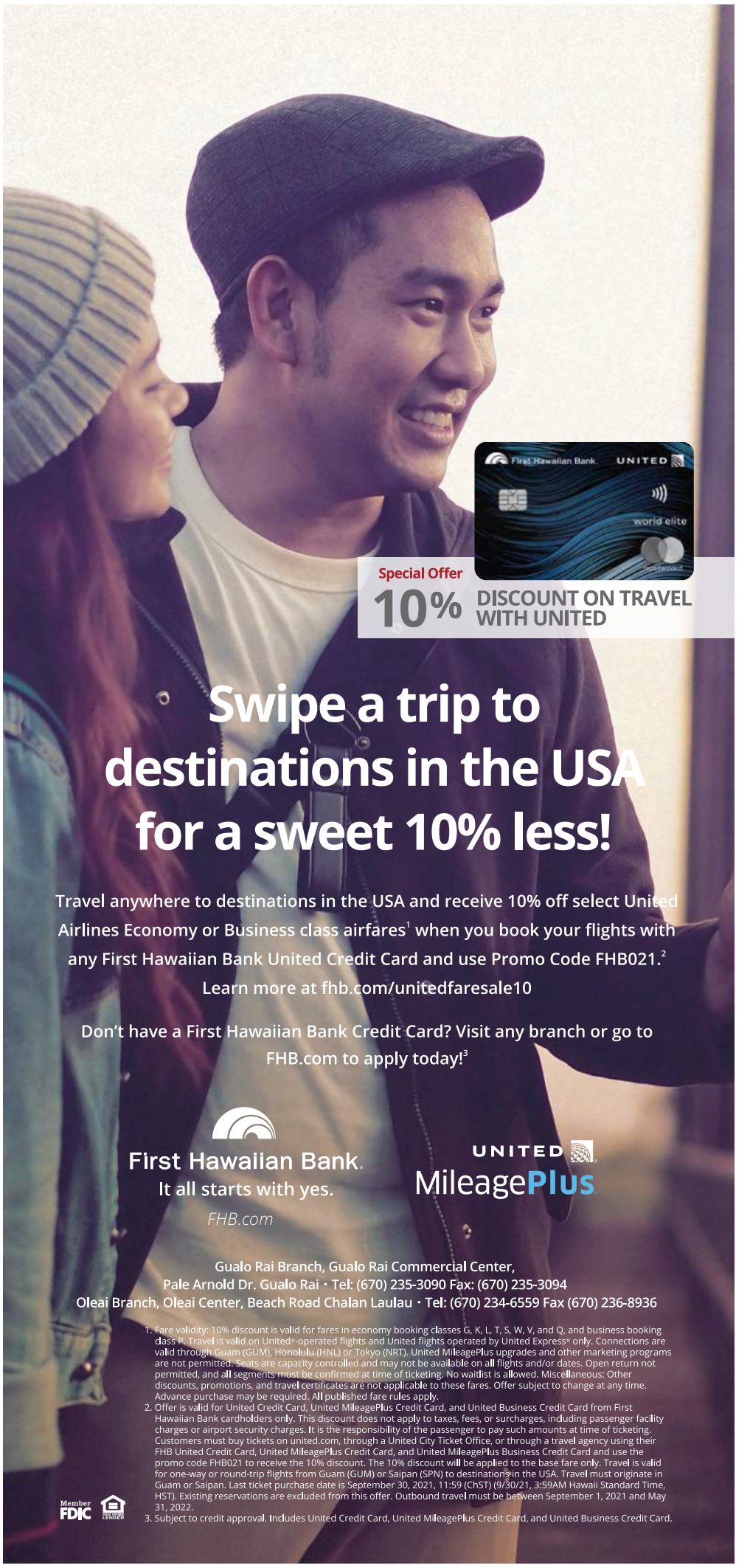

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CNMI DOL issues $230M total in PUA benefits

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program expiring last Saturday, the CNMI Department of Labor reports that roughly over $230 million in federal funds have been disbursed for all three PUA stages.

During a press briefing last Friday, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said the U.S. Department of Labor allocated roughly $700 million specifically for unemployment assistance in the CNMI. Of the $700 million, Benavente said, only $230 million has been used so far.

"About $700 million [was allocated] for all three PUA stages during the CARES Act, Continued Assistance Act, and American Rescue Plan Act. We received several grants from USDOL totaling about $700 million or more. We have disbursed only around $230 million to eligible applicants," she said.

However, with the submission of claims and applications extended to October, CNMI DOL still expects to pay out thousands of PUA claims. Last week alone, DOL paid out over $4 million to 568 PUA claimants which represented over 5,000 weekly claims.

"I believe there are so many people continuing to submit weekly claims and we had a few actually submitting initial claims, meaning there are claimants reporting that they have just lost their jobs," she said.

To date, roughly 1,000 are still awaiting PUA benefits, Benavente said. "There are still about 1000 who are still waiting on their PUA benefits to date. Mainly PUA 2 and PUA 3," she said.

So far, since the inception of the program back in March 2020 up until August, Benavente said the department has received over 40,000 application. Of that number, roughly 10,000 PUA applicants were deemed eligible and have been paid out.

"We're estimating around 9,000 and 10,000 PUA claimants in the CNMI, including Tinian and Rota, have received PUA benefits since 2020 to August 2021. These are claimants who have been deemed eligible regarding eligibility and completion of applications. We received closed to 40,000 PUA applications, including fraudulent ones, but only around 10,000 were deemed eligible," she said.

"People in our PUA team continue to adjudicate and resolve many issues from claimants who are submitting documents as quickly as they can so we can expedite their PUA claims," Benavente added.

Unfortunately, because the CNMI economy continues to suffer as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Benavente said people still continue to lose their jobs or remain unemployed and to top it off, unemployment assistance has come to an end.

"We still continue to see the effect on our economy due to the pandemic starting from 2020 to this day. We were hoping for a bounce back fairly quickly due to the CNMI being the safest place in the world—I truly believe that, thanks to our team—but we're still hearing that there is still reduction in hours or complete furlough of employees in [local] businesses," she said.

'CNMI's Moderna vaccines unaffected by Japan recall'

» Moderna vaccines prioritized for Tinian and Rota

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. assures that the CNMI's Moderna vaccines are not affected by the recent recall of Moderna vaccines in Japan.

Heather S. Pangelinan, Maternal, Infant, Child, & Adolescent Health Programs administrator for CHCC, said the Moderna recall in Japan is a factory-related issue.

"The Moderna vaccines in the U.S., including the CNMI, are not affected by the recall. The recall in Japan was related to an issue from the factory that produces the vaccines for Japan and other countries outside the U.S. or its territories," said Pangelinan.

Japan recalled three batches of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines after an investigation found stainless steel contaminants in some vials.

Pangelinan also said that the CNMI's allocation of the Moderna vaccines are right now being prioritized for Tinian and Rota since these vaccines do not require ultra-cold storage like Pfizer's vaccines, making them significantly easier to transport from Saipan to the two islands.

She said CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force made the decision to prioritize Moderna's vaccines on Tinian and Rota. "Ensuring the vaccines were safely transported was a priority," she added.

Pangelinan gave this explanation when asked why there seems to be more people being inoculated with the Pfizer vaccines on Saipan compared to the other vaccines.

She also explained that Pfizer's vaccines were the first to be rolled out in the CNMI and were the first to be granted emergency approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Moderna's vaccines received FDA emergency approval one week after Pfizer's vaccines obtained emergency approval, but there were limited doses at the time of its initial rollout in the CNMI.

5 MORE

From Page 1

screening and confirmed positive through arrival testing on Sept. 3 and 4. The individuals have been quarantined and are actively monitored, and CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for those in most immediate contact with the new cases. CHCC also reported that there is currently only one active hospitalization due to COVID-19.

In Guam, its Joint Information Center reported Friday the island's 151st COVID-19-related death. It was also learned that Guam's total of active hospitalizations due to COVID-19 is now at 51, with 31 of the total being unvaccinated.

Guam's 151st COVID-19-related death was an 85-year-old unvaccinated woman who had tested positive for COVID-19. The woman passed away at the Guam Regional Medical City on Sept. 2. Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero offered her condolences and urged the Guam community to maintain their resolve in the fight against COVID-19.

"Today, it saddens me to share that Guam has lost another soul to COVID-19. [Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio and I] send our deepest condolences to her family and friends. …Now is not the time to throw in the towel, now is the time to stand up and protect those we love. Help stop the spread of COVID-19 by doing your part—wear your mask, wash your hands, watch your distance, and get vaccinated," said Leon Guerrero.

TAX

From Page 1

Credit Update Portal last Aug. 27, 2,500 people have already registered, Norita said.

"So I continue to encourage those families that have not yet gone on the portal or have not yet submitted the advance child tax AdvCTC form update to please go ahead and do that so that we can get you your payment," she said.

The CNMI is authorized to make monthly payments of the child tax credit to eligible families amounting to $250 or $300, depending on the age of the child. The payments will be up to December 2021.

Norita said anyone who had registered on the portal, passed validation without any errors, and had a complete submission will be receiving their payments.

She said they had a couple of batches of payments the other week and last week.

"So those that elected for direct deposit should see something in their bank accounts within a couple days," Norita said, adding that they also have a batch of checks that will be mailed out.

The director encouraged eligible families to check the mail for their payments.

Revenue and Taxation is doing updates monthly and releases payments monthly as well.

"So again, it's when they submit the updated information to us so that it can go through the regular processing for the advance child tax and the payment will be released," Norita said.

The director noted that those who chose to receive the funds via direct deposit but put in an invalid information relating to their account number, those have been converted to checks. "So if you're expecting a direct deposit and you did not see it, you might be getting a check in the mail if you input invalid information," she said.

Norita said they have a team that's working on the advance child tax credit program and they are continuing to improve their database.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig earlier disclosed that on a normal child tax credit of $2,000, they usually distribute $12 million to $14 million annually. Atalig said with the increased child tax credit, he is expecting about $20 million annually.

The American Rescue Plan Act, which was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives last March 10, contains the largest child tax credit ever for families. The credit goes from $2,000 per child to $3,000 per child for children from age 6 through 17. For children under age 6, the credit is raised from $2,000 to $3,600.

Any family with two working parents and an income below $150,000 is eligible for the full credit. Single working parents earning up to $112,000 are also eligible for the full credit.

DEFENSE

From Page 2

"The vaccine under the EUA and the FDA-approved Comirnaty has the same formulation and can be used interchangeably to provide the COVID-19 vaccination series without presenting any safety or effectiveness concerns. This means that the vaccine that was administered under the EUA is the exact same one that was given FDA approval and renamed Comirnaty. Therefore, the change in FDA approval does have an impact because it moots plaintiffs' due process claims that are rooted in their arguments that the EUA required an option to accept or reject the vaccine," he said.

Chambers represents the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and its commissioner, Dennis Mendiola who were sued by nine former firefighters.

The plaintiffs were terminated for insubordination for their refusal to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

In their lawsuit, the plaintiffs said the defendants violated their procedural due process rights under the CNMI and U.S. Constitutions by mandating vaccination for COVID-19 as a condition for employment.

The plaintiffs also want the court to issue an injunctive relief, reinstating them as firefighters, with back pay and cost of the suit.

The plaintiffs, represented by attorney Joseph Horey, are Paul Acebedo, Jose K. Angui, Allen T. Calvo, Cain C. Castro, Argenon A. Flores, Derek B. Gersonde, Shawn DLR Kaipat, Philip Kalen, and Adam J. Safer.

GOVERNOR

From Page 1

and Governmental Operations Committee on his expenditures of public funds and travels.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry during his regular radio press briefing Friday, Torres disclosed that he has hired the law firm of Ross Garber from Washington, D.C. to represent him in the JGO matter.

Torres said he met with Attorney General Edward Manibusan and that the latter advised him to hire own lawyer in case he does get a subpoena from the JGO. It's the same advice that Manibusan gave to other persons being subpoenaed by JGO.

Ross Garber, of the Garber Group LLC law firm, teaches a class on political investigations and impeachments at Tulane Law School. He regularly provides legal commentary for CNN. According to the Garber Group LLC's website, among his clients have been four U.S. governors facing impeachment proceedings: Gov. Eric Greitens of Missouri, Gov. Robert Bentley of Alabama, Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina, and Gov. John Rowland of Connecticut.

The JGO recently approved subpoenas for Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero, and several others. The subpoenas will require them to appear at the committee hearing.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said they have yet to issue the subpoenas for Torres and Palacios as there is no hearing schedule yet for them. Babauta said the date of the witnesses' testimony would be subject to the availability of the House chamber and the JGO members' schedules.

The JGO also agreed to subpoena first lady Diann Torres and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho.

The subpoena will also ask Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Palacios, Diann Torres, and Camacho to produce certain documents.

Last week, Babauta postponed until further notice the resumption of the JGO hearing because she is not feeling well. Babauta, who is on sick leave this week, hopes to recover soon so they could resume the hearing this week.

Three witnesses—Boating Safety officer Kevin Aldan, and police officers Flora Aguon and Jhaneeka Atalig—were supposed to testify last week. Aguon and Atalig are personal security details for Diann Torres.

Magofna files her candidacy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Battle between 2 women at Oct. 16 special election

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. budget officer Corina L. Magofna filed her candidacy Friday under the NMI Democratic Party for a House of Representatives Precinct 3 seat that will become a battleground between her and Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Republican Party on Oct. 16.

"I am committed to work for the people. I am one with the people. I believe 100% in representing them," said the 46-year-old Magofna, who beat the Friday deadline to file her candidacy papers at the Commonwealth Election Commission on Capital Hill.

Magofna was accompanied by her family members, friends, and supporters in filing her nominating petition and candidacy documents. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP); the CNMI's first governor, Carlos S. Camacho; and Democrat lawmakers, officials, and members came to support her.

The special election was called after the passing of representative Ivan Alafanso Blanco.

In an interview Friday, Magofna said the people deserve good governance and a government that would give them accountability, responsibility, transparency, and honesty.

"So I am ready and committed to work for the people," said Magofna, adding that she ran for a House seat during last year's election and was close to making it. She landed seventh place and was just 34 votes short of victory. This time around, the former CUC budget officer is determined to win.

Magofna

She assured that when elected into office, she will work not just for Precinct 3 but for all other precincts and that she promises to give her absolute best to represent the people in the best way in their best interest. "So I humbly, humbly ask for every single voter in Precinct 3 to please consider voting for me in this upcoming election," Magofna said.

She also had kind words for Vaiagae, praising her for stepping up to the plate to give back to the community. "So I wish her the best of luck. And we'll do our best," she said.

Sablan, who has already endorsed Magoifna, said he and his wife Andrea met Magofna during the campaign period at last year's election and that they saw her passion for public service. "I saw her passion for the job," Sablan said.

He said for someone who can read a financial statement like Magofna is really important. He said for people who want to do something about the finances of the government, he or she needs to first know how to read a balance sheet, the profit and loss statement, and the capital statement. "She has that," Sablan pointed out.

For the past three and half years, Magofna served as CUC's budget officer. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Accounting from the University of Phoenix, and an associate degree in Accounting from the University of Hawaii.

Election registration for the special election is still ongoing; the last day to register is Sept. 17. The seven-day early voting will start on Oct. 9.

CEC executive director Kayla Igitol said yesterday that Friday was the deadline to file candidacy papers and that no one else submitted their nominating petition and candidacy documents, so the election on Oct. 16 will be a contest between Magofna and Vaiagae.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *New Cafeteria Building, next to Building D, Marianas High School, Bwaay Lane, Susupe, Saipan*, on *Friday, September 24, 2021*, at *5:00 p.m.*, on the application of *Marshall Holdings CNMI LLC*, Applicant for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *$6.447 million for solar energy production, inter-island ocean transport, import/export and eco-tourism.* All pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further Information.*** For further information, please contact CEDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its office at the CEDA Building, Beach Road, Oleai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 10, 2021 CLOSING DATE: August 25, 2021 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2021-032	Board Secretary	$25,000.00-$30,000.00 per annum- Ungraded

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Today is a tribute to all the past and present workers, who have offered us their selfless services for our comfort. Sincerely hoping that it will be a comfortable day for you to enjoy the fruits of your labor.
HAPPY
LABOR DAY!
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

OIA awards $1.5M for Close-Up, Junior State Foundation

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has provided $1,499,100 in fiscal year 2021 Technical Assistance Program grant funding to two civic engagement and education programs for insular areas students. One million dollars has been announced for the Close-Up Foundation and $499,100 has been awarded to the Junior State Foundation.

"Every year Congress provides this important support so that the students from the insular areas may participate in the Close-Up and Junior State civic education programs along with students from the other fifty states in the United States," said Nikolao Pula, acting assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

For the past 30 years, Interior has supported over 10,000 students and educators from the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and from the freely associated states (Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau). This funding will provide opportunities for students and teachers from the insular areas to participate in Close Up's in-person programs, including both local summits and the Washington, D.C.-based programs for academic year 2021-2022. The civic education opportunities designed for insular area youth creates opportunities for promoting efficient and effective governance.

The Junior State Foundation will support four students from each of the seven insular areas to participate in three-week programs at Stanford and Georgetown universities, providing a rigorous summer college-preparatory experience and academic boot camp. During these summer programs, students are assigned to develop a community action project in their home islands.

On July 19, 2021, Interior also announced grant funding to fund membership fees for the Insular Areas in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. ***(PR)***

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ONE Chief Accountant/Accounting Manager
(1) ONE ACCOUNTANT

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

HR Office
Herman's Modern Bakery Inc.
P.O. Box 500002 Saipan, MP 96950
By Facsimile: (670) 288-1726; or by e-mail: hr@hermansbakery.com
WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

HAPPY LABOR DAY

From the management and staff of

TUN HERMAN PAN RD., P.O. BOX 500002, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-1726 • FAX: (670) 288-1726 • EMAIL: sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY & Tan Marikita's Cafe

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2021-018
BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: September 29, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Oleai Sewer Line Replacement Project

Project package will be available on **August 30, 2021**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars ($100.00) is required for the project package. Payment must be by cash, credit card, cashier's check or certified check made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented in order to obtain the project package.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on September 09, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement" menu tab or by visiting the www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com website. Bidders are encouraged to email the Procurement Officer of their intent to participate in the pre-bid conference via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net at least one day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

Bid Security: Bids exceeding $25,000.00 shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid, which maybe a Bid Bond, certified check or cashier's check, made payable to the ***Northern Marianas Housing Corporation***. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Deadline nears to nominate 2021 Bridge of Light awardee

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is reminding those interested in nominating for this year's Bridge of Light Award that the deadline to submit a nomination is 11:59pm on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.

This award is NMCADSV's annual effort to honor the efforts and accomplishments of one extraordinary individual in the CNMI who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors.

For additional information and to submit nominations visit the online form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BOLA2021WebLink.

For more information on the nomination process or sponsorship, contact the NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. ***(PR)***

Scheduled water service interruptions today

There will be a scheduled water service interruption today, Sept. 6, 2021, from 7:30am to 4:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of Lower Dandan Homestead, Airport Road, portions of Kannat Tabla, As Perdido, As Lito, Fina Sisu and portions of Koblerville (Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road from the Saint Jude Church to the ABCD Market).

This is due to the isolation of the 6-inch transmission waterline for water operators to perform an emergency leak repair located on Airport Road near the Hawthorne building. Water services to affected areas will resume soon after.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationn. (PR)

4.6-magnitude quake in Maug region

At 1:49pm on Sept. 4, 2021, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at the Maug island region in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

5.3-magnitude quake in Guam

At 9:03am on Sept. 5, 2021, a report of a 5.3-magnitude earthquake occurred 117 km south-southwest of Merizo in Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings, or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

Guam launches Cycle 3 of rental assistance program

TAMUNING, Guam—The Department of Administration's Emergency Rental Assistance Program will launch Cycle 3 of its rental and utility assistance today, Sept.6, 2021.

ERA Cycle 3 webform applications will be live and accessible on the DOA website at doa.guam.gov. Interested applicants can visit the DOA website to review ERA program qualifications, as well as complete and process the webform application. A PDF copy of the application is also available for download.

The ERA office will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 6, 2021. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021, from 8am to 4pm assisting customers and accepting applications.

For more information, contact the ERA Program office at (671)638-4518/4519 or visit doa.guam.gov. ***(PR)***

NAVFAC Pacific awards $13M contract to Guam business

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded a $13.9 million firm-fixed-priced task order on Sept. 1 to Core Tech-HDCC-Kajima LLC of Tamuning, Guam for the construction of a reinforced concrete blast structure over an existing fuel manifold at Joint Region Marianas in Guam.

The work to be performed provides for the demolition and removal of the current intermediate subterranean valve vault that houses existing petroleum oil lubricant pipelines and the construction of a new hardened concrete building structure and hose connection vault at the Tiyan Junction Valve Vault facility.

Work will be performed in Guam and is expected to be completed by September 2023. ***(PR)***

INVITATION TO BID

MVA-ITB-21-2040

Acquisition of Riding Mower for MVA Tinian and MVA Rota

Submission /Closing Date: **September 15, 2021** **Time: 3:00PM (ChST)**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 50086, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested firms may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **September 01, 2021** at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Bids submitted from firms outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service by **September 15, 2021** and must be received by MVA within seven (7) working days of that date. Bidders from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer, Ms. Lenette Maratita in writing of their intent to bid in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Bid Documents. This notice of intent to bid may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to (670) 664-3237 or emailed to lmaratita@mymarianas.com. Notification of intent to bid must be received by MVA no later than **3:00PM** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) on **September 10, 2021** and must reference **"MVA-ITB-21-2040"** on the subject line.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

Amendment No. 1

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC RFP 2021-016

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: ~~September 01, 2021~~ **September 13, 2021, 10:00 a.m**

Consulting Services for the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program

The proposal packet is available on August 02, 2021 at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net and at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

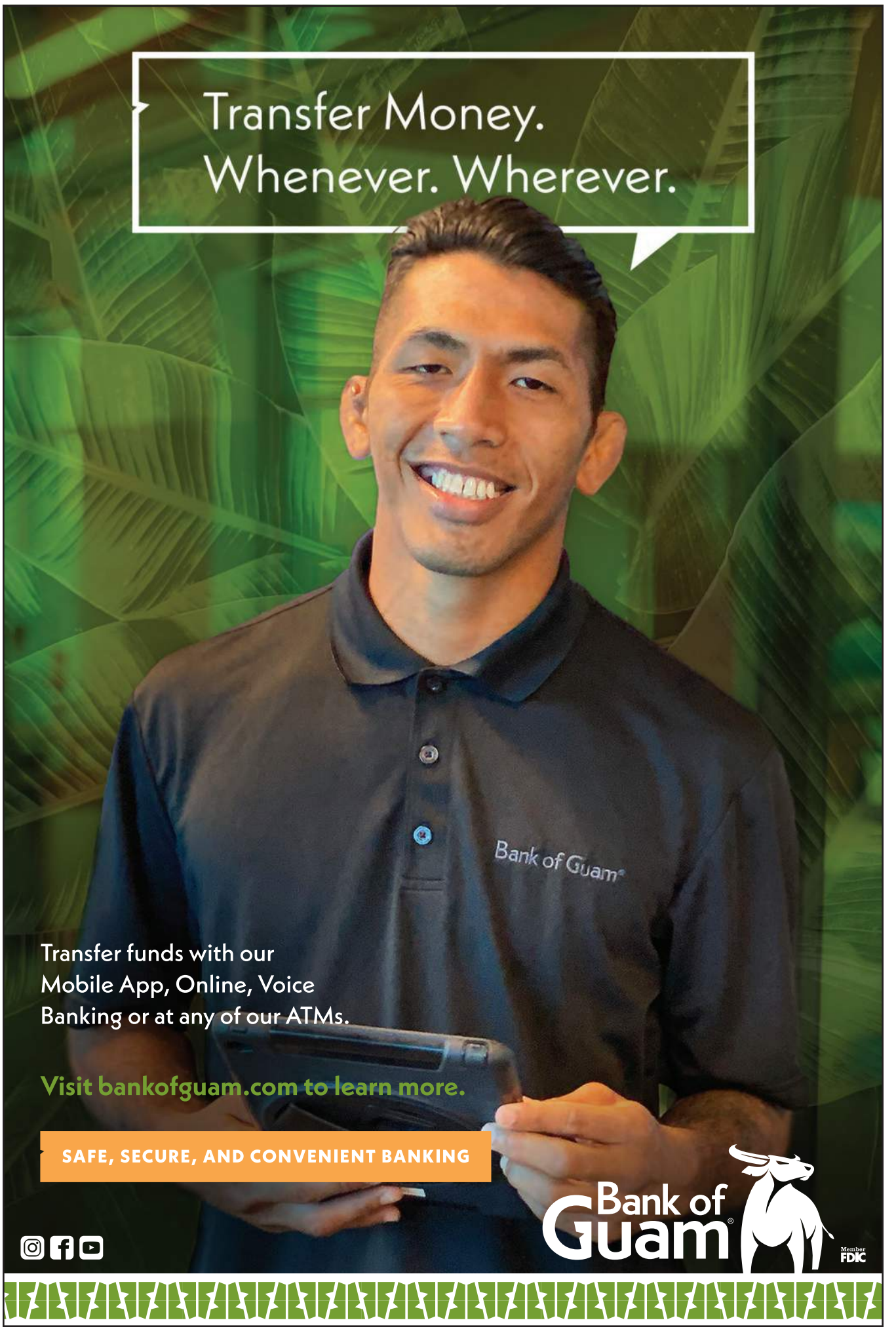
Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at officemanager@nmhcgov.net and Mr. Nobert I. Pangelinan at drprocurementofficer@nmhcgov.net; or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021 no later than 10:00 AM local time on ~~August 13, 2021~~ **September 03, 2021.**

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net and Mr. Nobert I. Pangelinan, CDBG-DR Procurement Officer at drprocurementofficer@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/
Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

All wet: How NYC must adapt to a future of extreme flooding

As refreshing as it was to see New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio standing shoulder to shoulder to commit to attacking a problem (OK, not exactly shoulder to shoulder; he's 6-foot-5 and she's not), it's way too late for either the city or state to do anything about the catastrophic flooding that drenched New York Wednesday night, killing more than a dozen people, crippling the subways and destroying untold amounts of property.

The necessary tasks now are drying out and assessing the damage, followed in short order by marshaling all the resources available from the federal government and private insurers, and then spending smartly on infrastructure upgrades that will pay the biggest dividends to lessen flood risk, whether it comes from rising seas or biblical downpours. It is an abomination that nearly nine years after Superstorm Sandy, we've made so little progress in building a more flood-resilient city.

On a planet redefined by climate change and the extreme weather it brings, in a low-lying city with a more than century-old sewer system and 520 miles of coastline, the dunk tank we just became—courtesy of rainfall that broke a record set just two weeks ago—is a prelude of worse to come.

A "Stormwater Resiliency Plan" issued by the mayor's office in May says improvements during the last 30 years "have increased NYC's capacity to absorb extreme rainfall." We don't doubt that, but it all feels like a drop in a bucket now. That same report outlines four goals: informing the public about flood vulnerability; updating flash flood response procedures; better predicting future risk; and investing in projects to mitigate future flooding. Target dates to complete projects stretch out to 2023, 2024 and in some cases 2027 and even 2031.

The No. 4 priority must be the first, with an emphasis on getting the world's best engineering talent to make water flow better through our century-old sewer system. We can't manage our retreat or raise our city a few feet. We can and must rise to this challenge.

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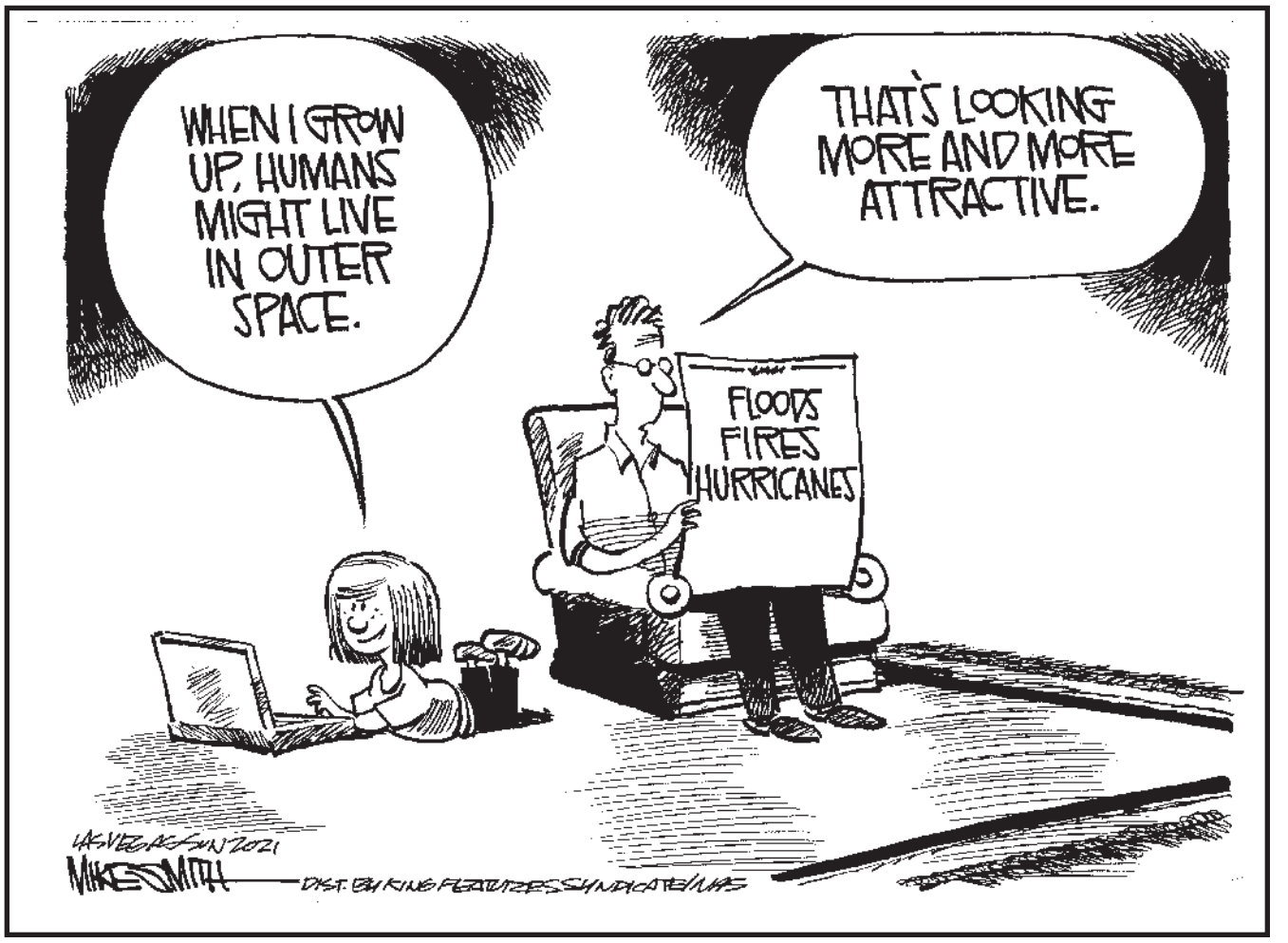

Our fire and flood summer predicts a catastrophic future

By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN
Los Angeles Times

Journalist Ginia Bellafante hit the nail on the head Thursday when she tweeted that the overused phrase "historic weather event" must be retired.

"It gives the ongoing climate catastrophe the hint of something novel and fun."

The destruction of two major office towers in New York City 20 years ago was never called a "historic airplane event"; the destruction of two major cities in Japan in 1945 was not a "historic atomic event."

Instead, these "events" were immediately understood as parts of the larger global horrors of terrorism and war. The climate crisis, too, must be addressed not as a series of one-off inconveniences—the current fires in California and the floods in New York—but as a global convulsion that is already structuring our geopolitics, our everyday lives, our futures. The climate catastrophe makes it increasingly likely that many of us in the coming decades will face injury, displacement and destitution, as we are forced to abandon damaged or destroyed homes and hometowns.

One way to comprehend the planetary convulsion is to consider the map the New York Times generated this week using data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The map divides the nation by warm and cool colors. The variations don't signal political affiliations. They don't indicate who does and doesn't "believe" in the climate crisis. They stand for something much more elemental: fire and water.

The data capture the 30-year change in annual average precipitation across the United States, and it's staggering. Half of the nation has been grappling with drought while the other gets inundated.

The too-scorched West gives way to the drowned East across a surprisingly clear border that runs down the middle of the Dakotas and cuts through Texas.

Left of the line, there are a lot of amber hues, indicating that rainfall has decreased by between 1 and 5 inches since 1991.

To the right, it's largely medium to dark aqua green. Rainfall in these areas has increased by between 2 and 5 inches in the same period. The exception is a swath of the Southern states—chiefly Georgia, North Carolina and northern Florida—that in places are about as dehydrated as Arizona.

In short, the map gives context to the West Coast's consuming fires, the lethal storm surges in Louisiana, the flash floods in Tennessee and the Hurricane Ida aftermath that flooded houses and closed schools in New York this week.

It all adds up to a century that has broken out of the steadier weather patterns of the past, in which flood and drought were indeed "events." It signals a breakdown of climate but, more important, a breakdown of American government and industry, which have utterly failed over the last 50 years to modify a rapacious economy that still depends on gouging stuff out of the earth and burning it.

The result can be charted: precipitation changes.

In California, two years of deep drought have set the state up for record-breaking wildfires. Already in 2021, more than 1.9 million acres have burned. Firefighters are warning that despite their all-out effort, the Caldor fire at Lake Tahoe's edge may yet burn all the way to Nevada.

Out East, the ever-warming atmosphere retains more water—and then dumps it onto communities that are not built to sustain it. Some 41 million Americans, most in the East, live near enough to a floodplain to be in urgent danger from floods.

We grow used to these numbers, which once would have terrified us.

The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 left 500 people dead and 700,000 homeless, and cost the federal government around $1 billion, a full third of the 1927 federal budget. In response to the devastation, tens of thousands of Black Mississippians left their homes and moved North and West.

In that historical migration Americans today might see their future. Our sea-to-shining-sea nation is becoming less and less habitable. Those with means may move farther north, but even in Canada, projected precipitation maps are ominous. Almost no part of the North American continent is safe from fires or floods.

How to prepare? A famous 2007 quote by John Holdren, then Barack Obama's senior science adviser, is apt: "We basically have three choices: mitigation, adaptation and suffering. We're going to do some of each. The question is what the mix is going to be."

In the name of reducing the suffering, we had better start mitigating and adapting fast. The checklist is simple but drastic. Stop

See OUR on next page

Drones

Drones are mechanical devices that provide utility to military, commercial and recreational end users. There are about two million drones operating throughout the American empire today. Most of these airborne systems are used by individuals for personal reasons. The U.S. government and corporate entities such as Amazon also use drones on an extensive basis.

Risks of drone use in general and throughout the Marianas Islands

Increasing use and total numbers of drones will bring about new kinds of risks to the general population. Guam happens to be the military home of some of the most up-to-date and lethal drones used for war. Ongoing drone storage, testing, use, and research activities take place throughout the Marianas Islands and the broader region. Because there are many kinds of militarily sensitive activities taking place, the presence of recreational drones flying near Big Navy or Andersen is probably not the best thing to do.

From a villager perspective, there are risks associated with the drones interfering with commercial runway operations in Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The last thing Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands needs is a bunch of drones loitering near the flight paths of incoming and outgoing commercial airline flights.

Hobby-type drones do not weigh much and if a United Airlines aircraft for example got a drone sucked into its engine, it would most likely result in the aircraft crashing. Commercial drones, by contrast, weigh around 50 lbs and the heaviest drones by far are the ones used by the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence communities.

There are a host of other possible risks such as using drones to spy on neighbors or residents nearby. Drones may also introduce risks to drivers if they are used at persistently low altitudes, potentially distracting drivers transiting major roadways such as Marine Corps Drive.

Drones can be used by the Chinese government to spy on all U.S. military activities throughout our island chain. Drones can be used by the American military to spy on village happenings, social gatherings, or individual leaders. Drones can be used by people to engage in moving about firearms, drugs or other illegal substances or contraband.

One very dangerous and possible scenario that could take place in our region is that a fleet of armed drones could be used to attack any number of Guam's critical infrastructure nodes to include the airport, the seaport, energy infrastructure, water infrastructure, hotels, key government buildings or any number of military installations and military platform targets.

This is not out of the question because of our island chain's proximity to Asia is relatively close, Guam's level of importance with regards to projecting deadly American military power is high, and the vast open-air space that surrounds the entire archipelago helps enable adversarial military assets the ability to successfully loiter in the general region.

Ways to curb possible accidents with drones

One way to curb future accidents with drones is founded on common sense. Drone use by individuals should not be conducted near the airport or around areas that could cause a car accident or damage to critical infrastructure. Second, the American national government, the government of Guam and the CNMI government have tremendous opportunity to anticipate and manage future risks associated with remotely identifying drones in areas that are heavily used by civilian aircraft and/or military operations.

Limits for protecting civilian aircraft operations are traced to the massive regulatory frameworks in place, and the technical challenges associated with detection, communications, and navigation, privacy and jamming.

Other challenges include how to deal with drones that are viewed as fully autonomous, as opposed to locally operated drones. Focus also needs to be revisited on how commercial and recreational drones can be made into flying unmanned armed aircraft systems, which pose a series of new additional risks.

Possible insular governmental opportunities to pursue if they have not yet already been undertaken

Insular lawmakers, the governors of Guam and the CNMI, autonomous line agency entities of the local government(s), and executive line agencies such as public works all have some part in the overall discussion of how to protect the community from risks associated with drones and how to also think about rolling out possible future legislative and executive efforts to deal with this ever-evolving aircraft technology.

While drones may also pose a variety of risks to the community, they can also be used for emergency response efforts ranging across the realms of search and rescue, wildfires, law enforcement, traffic enforcement, and traffic management.

Drones can also be configured for dual use purposes that include military, commercial and personal use activities. This provides an additional opportunity to address how drone operator standards can be crafted and/or updated.

Young Chamorros and villagers interested in unmanned aircraft systems are well positioned to learn about the engineering, mechanics, and physics behind current and potential uses of drones. Educational leaders, government officials, and private sector leaders have yet another opportunity to visit and revisit how future uses of drones will look like in the Marianas.

The entire Marianas Islands chain is at many levels the ideal region to beta test ongoing ways to fully integrate use of military, commercial, non-profit, recreational, or individual use activities.

The reason that our island chain is a tremendous test bed region is that the amount of landmass available for villager, commercial, civilian, business, and military actions involving formally labelled domestic airspace is limited. This limitation, along with mixed use developed and undeveloped areas makes for a great place to draw up and implement on a phased basis how drone activities can and should be conducted.

Our region also allows our Chamorro people the opportunity to work with the federal executive line agencies who have various oversight responsibilities to come up with a national plan on how to manage and enhance safety when it comes to use of drones.

RICK'S COLUMN
By RICK PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs *at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.*

By ISABELLA CASILLAS GUZMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Isabella Casillas Guzman is administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SBA administrator's statement on Labor Day

Labor Day is a time to honor the unending strength, creativity and determination of the American workers who are the backbone of our nation.

Our workers—which include the 61.2 million employed by our nation's 32 million small businesses—keep our communities safe and vibrant and our economy strong. They have demonstrated inspiring resilience over the past year and a half and are leading the way as our country recovers and rebuilds from a global pandemic.

There is one group of workers in particular that I'd like to recognize for their incredible dedication and commitment over the past 18 months, and that's the mission-driven federal workforce at the U.S. Small Business Administration. These dedicated civil servants continue to go above and beyond to ensure our nation's entrepreneurs have the tools, resources and support they need to recover and rebuild. I couldn't be more proud to lead them.

OUR

From Page 8

taking fossil fuel from the ground and burning it, shrink livestock farming, switch to sustainable electricity. Build raised houses, relocate farms and plant heat-tolerant trees. Admit it's happening.

The single remaining hope is that Americans will not see the amber-to-green evidence as a pretext for more infighting and blame but rather as a call to common sense, pragmatic action and moral responsibility. Mitigation and adaptation are vitally important, but only a more humane society will help us care for one another in the crisis that stretches before us.

Sorry Joe, this was not a success

Talk about a catastrophic success.

The Biden administration wants credit for the Afghanistan evacuation as measured by the sheer number of people it flew out amid a security and humanitarian crisis of its own making.

This is the arsonist bragging about how many fires he has put out.

Those with memories that stretch past a couple of weeks ago will recall the halcyon days when a mass evacuation at a civilian airport exposed to suicide bombers and other attackers wasn't, according to Joe Biden, even conceivable.

Biden contributed to the collapse of the Afghan military by denying it air cover, gave away Bagram Air Base for no good reason, pulled out U.S. troops before our diplomats and civilians, drastically underestimated the gathering Taliban offensive, and then, caught unawares by the fall of Kabul, scrambled to jury-rig a desperate rescue that shouldn't have been necessary in the first place.

That the U.S flew out more than 115,000 people out of Kabul is a testament to the awesome capabilities of the United States military.

It is not in any way a vindication of President Biden's exit.

The evacuation itself has been costly. Because we outsourced security outside the airport to the Taliban, our service members were forced to operate in dangerous conditions. A nearly inevitable attack last week killed 13 of them. That's the loss of more Americans in one day than were killed in action most years in Afghanistan since 2015.

Then, we failed by the most important metric. We left hundreds of Americans behind who wanted to leave, a squalid betrayal that was unfathomable before the Biden team began to try to prepare the public for it a week or so ago.

It's hard to imagine any prior American president, perhaps with the exception of Jimmy Carter, abandoning Americans behind enemy lines. Theodore Roosevelt mustered the naval might of the United States to save one American who had been kidnapped in Morocco in 1904. Barack Obama traded five Guantanamo detainees for Bowe Bergdahl in 2014.

Even Biden felt the impulse to get every last American out. He pledged to do it in his interview with George Stephanopoulos. In order to keep his promise to the Taliban to get out by Aug. 31, though, he broke his promise to his countrymen.

We still don't know how many U.S. green-card holders, to whom we should also feel an obligation, have been left behind. And there have been reports that the Taliban was blocking our most deserving Afghan allies from getting to the airport, meaning the Afghans we got out weren't necessarily the most endangered.

Even if the evacuation had been flawless and complete, the underlying situation speaks of an abysmal failure. After 20 years, we lost a war to a Taliban that now controls more territory than it did on September 11, 2001. The Taliban hasn't renounced al Qaeda; indeed, the Haqqani network, a key element of the Taliban that has been responsible for security in Kabul, is closely allied with the terror group.

Biden talks bravely of launching counterterrorism strikes from "over the horizon," but failed to secure a base in a neighboring country. We will have to operate from hours away in the Persian Gulf, even as our intelligence capabilities in Afghanistan are drastically diminished.

Our ineptitude and dishonorable conduct have shocked our allies, who need to place their trust in our competence and reliability.

Biden's supporters have resorted to the defense that almost all of this was inevitable. Yet, for years, the Afghan army fought and bled after we had stepped back into a support role, suggesting an unsatisfactory stalemate was achievable at a relatively low cost. Biden rejected that option. Instead, he chose defeat and disgrace. All of the exertions to rescue people from the wreckage over the last two weeks can't change that.

By RICH LOWRY
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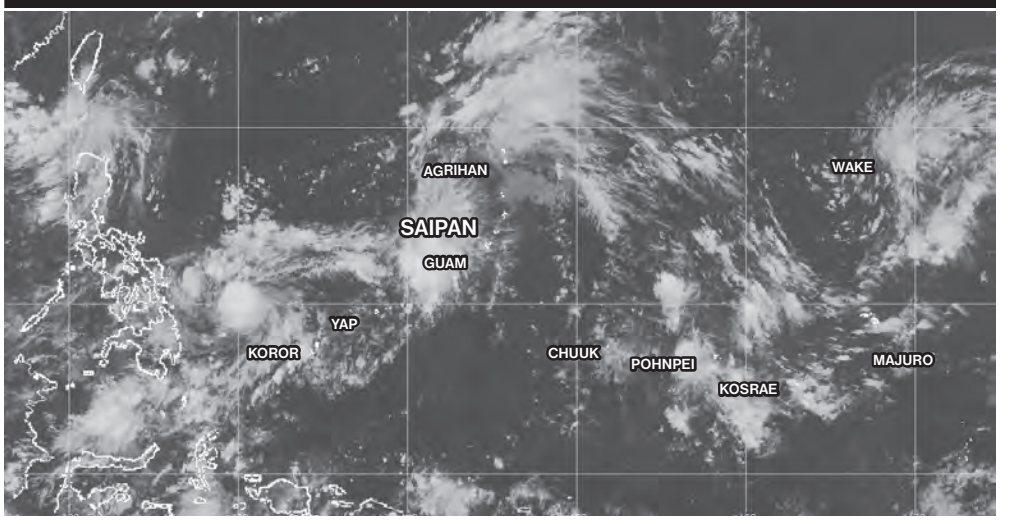
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph becoming light and variable in the evening.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph after midnight.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:31 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of the Marianas Waters, and also to the northeast. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed of an east-northeast trade-wind swell of 2 to 3 feet and east to southeast wind waves of 3 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Palau	Afternoon clouds	78 / 87 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	78 / 87 °F
Chuuk	Broken clouds	78 / 88 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	83 / 87 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	80 / 87 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:05 AM	6:04 PM	-
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM	-
Wednesday	6:56 AM	7:28 PM	-
Thursday	7:51 AM	8:10 PM	-
Friday	8:48 AM	8:52 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light rain	49 / 55 °F
Beijing	High level clouds	60 / 87 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	75 / 82 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	72 / 83 °F
London	Partly cloudy	60 / 72 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	64 / 88 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	49 / 64 °F
Miami	Strong thunderstorms	78 / 84 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	72 / 90 °F
Osaka	Mostly cloudy	72 / 83 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	64 / 77 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	67 / 77 °F
Rome	Sunny	60 / 90 °F
Salem	Light showers	56 / 79 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	58 / 67 °F
Seoul	Morning clouds	65 / 80 °F
Tokyo	Passing showers	75 / 83 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	67 / 90 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:11 AM	Low Tide	1.09
6:21 AM	High Tide	1.93
1:22 PM	Low Tide	-0.02
8:05 PM	High Tide	1.97

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

CHCC: CNMI seeing increased circulation of respiratory virus

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is seeing an increased circulation of Respiratory Syncytial Virus in the community, up 71% this week compared to last week.

RSV cases usually increase late in the year, but the CHCC is seeing an early spike similar to many states in the U.S. Since late March, the U.S. Centers for Disease and Prevention Control has observed an increase in RSV detections reported to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System, a nationwide passive, laboratory-based surveillance network.

For most children and adults, RSV causes a mild illness with cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, decrease in appetite, coughing, sneezing, fever, and wheezing. But for some children, especially infants and toddlers or those with risk factors like premature birth, it can cause breathing problems. Most children do not need to test for RSV since there is no special treatment for it.

Like many illnesses, the best prevention of spread is good hand hygiene, staying home if you are sick, and keeping your children home if they are sick. Supportive care at home includes hydration, gentle suctioning to clear mucous from the nose, and fever control with acetaminophen (Tylenol) and/or ibuprofen (ibuprofen only for 6 months old and above).

Seek medical care if your child has signs of working hard to breathe, such as fast breathing or using the muscles between their ribs to help with breathing; has signs of dehydration, such as urinating less than normal, sunken eyes, or not making tears when crying; has fever for three or more days; or if you have any other concerns, especially if your child has other health problems.

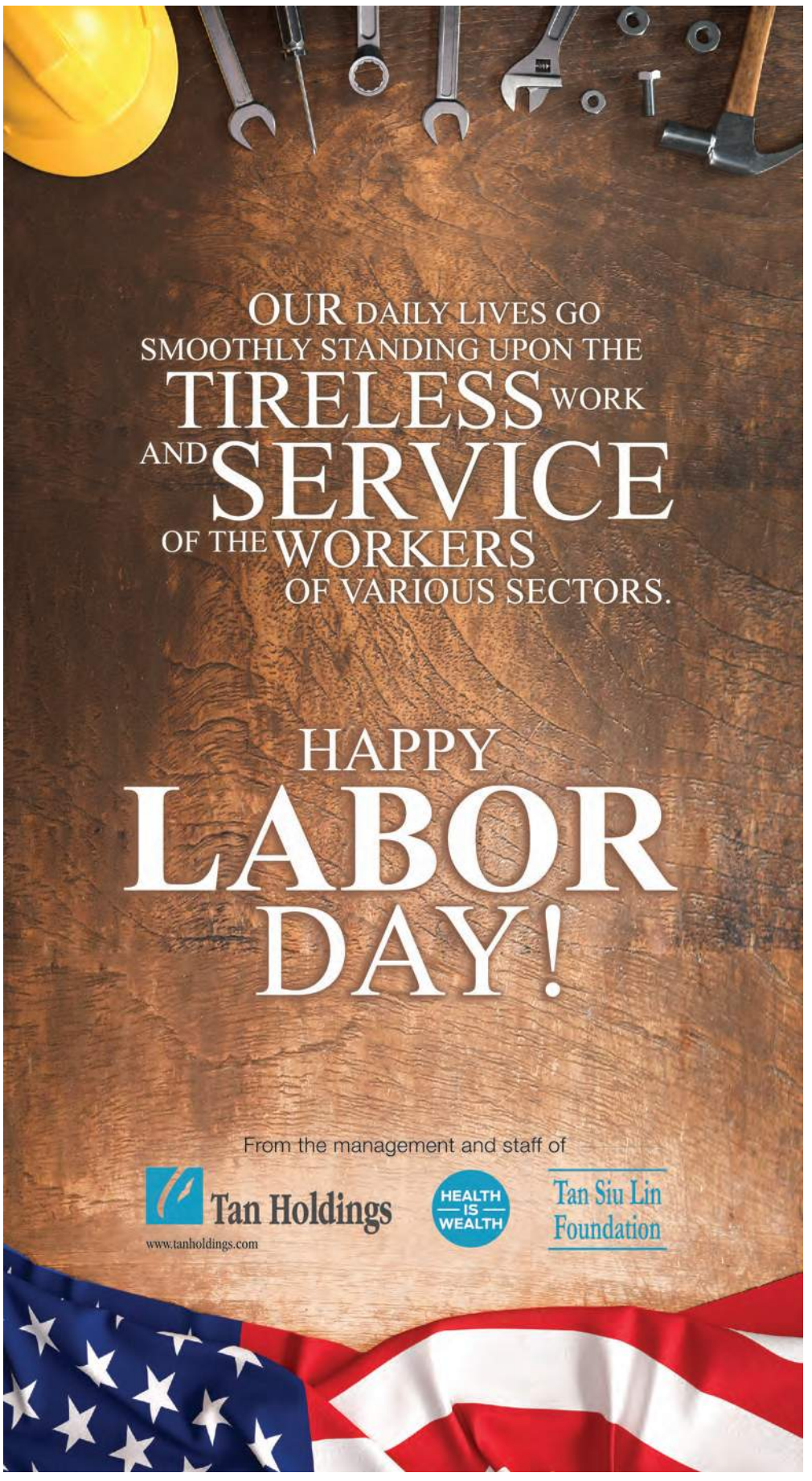
As always, your family's primary care provider is the best source of information for questions or concerns, especially if your child has specific risks like extreme prematurity or lung problems. In addition to several private medical offices on island, the CHCC Children's Clinic offers walk-in visits Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm (closed on holidays). For more information about the CHCC Children's Clinic, call (670) 234-8951. ***(PR)***

"Let's recognize the great contributions workers have made to the well-being, strength and prosperity of our island community."
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY
LABOR
DAY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN/SEIPEL
UNITED STATES NOV. 4, 1986
MAYOR DAVID M. APATANG & STAFF

LDTF SCHOLARS

Northern Marianas College students Edieson Aguirre and Avry Racoma were recently awarded $600 each from the Lady Diann Torres Foundation. The LDTF Scholarship program gives individuals with disabilities more opportunities at pursuing higher education at NMC. In both photos with the scholars are NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, first lady Diann Torres, LDTF board member and NMC regent Irene Torres, NMC dean of Student Support Services Charlotte Cepeda, NMC counselor Roxanne Torres, NMC Learning Support Services director Christine Inos, NMC counselor Kaelani Demapan, NMC Financial Aid specialist Roy Alegre, NMC Financial Aid director Daisy Manglona-Propst and LDTF board member and NMC federal accountant Katherine Palacios.

NMC



Nine honored as SCS Students of the Month for August

Saipan Community School recognizes its nine Students of the Month for August. SCS

Every month, Saipan Community School recognizes nine students, one per grade level, for outstanding character displayed at school.

For the month of August, SCS recognized the following students:

The kindergarten student of the month is Ian Gray. Ian has shown great courage by adjusting to life in kindergarten. He is a kind friend who is always quick to help. He brings much joy and happiness to our kindergarten family!

Aiko Tenorio is the first-grade student of the month. Aiko has shown enthusiasm, attentiveness, and curiosity. She brings joyful, positive energy to first grade everyday. Aiko often asks the most thought-provoking questions that generally lead to great class discussions.

Amia Gray is the second-grade student of the month. Amia is being recognized for her compassion, attentiveness, and diligence. She is a kind and helpful friend to all of her classmates. Amia is always eager to contribute during lessons and discussions. Amia is a leader in the classroom and puts her all into everything that she does at school.

The third-grade student of the month is Jihan Delos Reyes. She has done an amazing job of finding her role at SCS. She readily participates in all areas of the curriculum. Jihan has reached out to other students to build relationships. Jihan has persevered through difficult assignments and has completed projects with her best effort.

The student of the month for fourth-grade is Hiyori Okuma. Hiyori is quick to get started, highly organized, and extremely helpful. She cares about others and works well with peers. Hiyori is a bright, shining star!

Vivian Chung is the fifth-grade student of the month. Vivian exhibits diligence, joyfulness, and enthusiasm. She readily volunteers to read and participate in class activities. She displays leadership qualities by showcasing respect and hard work. Vivian has a great sense of otherness, which is inspiring.

Jose Sablan is the sixth-grade student of the month. Jose has shown the ability to motivate others. He has a wonderful, positive attitude and is always ready for learning. He shows enthusiasm and passion for learning that is contagious in the classroom.

The seventh-grade student of the month is Morgan Finco. Morgan has shown great attentiveness, respect, diligence, and willingness to go above and beyond. She is willing and eager to help out when needed. Morgan upholds a positive attitude in everything she does.

Hilah Bacani is the eighth-grade student of the month. Hilah has taken the initiative to be a vocal leader for her class. She has the boldness needed to hold her classmates accountable for their actions. Hilah consistently demonstrates leadership skills and enthusiasm in the classroom. She advocates for her classmates and wants them to excel. ***(PR)***

MCS provides student leadership training

With the CNMI now at Level Green (the safest level in the five-level community vulnerability scale) Mount Carmel School has reinstated student events and activities, including the recent Student Leadership Retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to serve as a professional development for elected student leaders as they prepare for student engagement activities throughout the school year. The retreat was held on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021, at Mount Carmel School's Maturana Building. The retreat was made available for all student leaders in grades seventh through 12th. During the retreat, students were provided with various sessions that would prepare them to lead their peers this school year. The topics covered include mission and vision, policies and procedures, student leadership, mental wellness, marketing, fundraising, photography, and planning student activities. Mount Carmel School's Student Council president Kyla Cabrera shared the significance of hosting the retreat and commented on the pandemic's effects on students' mental wellness, learning, and engagement. "Throughout the summer, my team and I reached out to many students asking what they felt was most important to change. Ultimately, the No. 1 response was to have student activities back and to address the effects on student's mental wellness during this pandemic. We are thankful for the school's support in our efforts by facilitating this event." Acting school president Frances Taimanao commended the student council for their proactive and energy to assist their peers. "Since June of this year, our STUCO officers have been proactive about meeting the needs of our students. While one gap year of suspending student events might not seem long, we recognize the effects this pandemic has had on student learning and behavior. At MCS, we believe that if we can safely facilitate student activities we can provide our students with a more holistic education and experience." The first day of classes for MCS was last Aug. 12, 2021, and Mount Carmel School since then has reinstated the annual Parent Orientation, the Activities Fair, and the Student Leadership Retreat. Upcoming events include Cultural Day, the Thanksgiving Fiesta, Christmas Show, and more throughout the school year. For more information, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

MCS student leaders shared ideas on effective student activities during the reinstated Student Leadership Retreat. MCS

On Aug. 28, 2021, Mount Carmel School students participated in the reinstated Student Leadership Retreat. In the photo, students reviewed the agenda for the day. MCS

Mount Carmel School student leaders in grades seventh through 12th participated in the various sessions with topics focused on student leadership and planning. In the photo, students are praying before their session focused on mission, vision, and policies and procedures. MCS

Photography was one of the training sessions during Mount Carmel School's recent Student Leadership Retreat. In this photo, students were tasked to take a photo that represented the "studious student." MCS

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

What **you need to know** about COVID-19 **booster shots**

By DEEDEE STIEPAN
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Health officials are developing a plan to begin offering COVID-19 booster shots to all people in the U.S. as soon as this fall to maximize vaccine protection.

The Mayo Clinic News Network team sat down with Dr. Melanie Swift, co-chair of the Mayo Clinic COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation and Distribution Work Group. In this Q&A, Dr. Swift answers questions about COVID-19 booster shots:

Q What is a booster vaccine?

A A booster vaccine is intended to be a reminder to your immune system. Right now, we're in a situation where we can see that over time immunity that people achieve from the COVID-19 vaccine does start to wane. The good news is that it's waning mostly against mild infection. We still do have protection from those early vaccine doses against severe infection. But we want to stop transmission and we want to keep people from getting any form of infection. So boosters are going to be recommended for everyone.

Q How is a booster different from an additional dose, which has been recommended for people who are immunocompromised?

A They're really different things with different purposes. The primary vaccination series is intended to build an initial immune response. Think of it like painting your house. You sometimes can get good coverage with one coat of paint, but occasionally you might need three coats of paint to get that good coverage. It's the same way with vaccines. Some people might have a great response to one dose, but most people need two doses of the messenger RNA vaccines to get a great response.

But what we've learned is that some people actually need a third dose to get a better response to that initial vaccine. And those people are immunocompromised. Their immune systems aren't working very well, and they do need additional doses of vaccine to respond.

Over time, once you've achieved that initial response, your immunity may still wane and you could need a booster. So you might need another coat of paint down the road when the initial one starts to wear thin or get stains on it. Giving another coat of paint is like giving a booster.

Q Will the booster shots be the same vaccine?

A Right now, we are giving that third dose and planning to give that booster dose with the same formulation of the original vaccine. But that could change over time.

The manufacturers—Pfizer and Moderna—are studying variants of that initial messenger RNA vaccine that can be designed to cover mutations that some of the variants of concern are exhibiting. It may be that we get annual boosters, and over time each year, that might be a different vaccine that helps provide better protection against the coronavirus strains that are currently circulating—much like we do with flu vaccine. We already have this concept. We get a new flu vaccine every year, and it covers different strains than previous years.

Q Does this recommendation suggest the COVID-19 vaccines are not effective?

A A booster just means that your immune system will start to lose immunity over time. It doesn't mean that the initial vaccine didn't work. In fact, the immune response that we typically see in healthy people from the messenger RNA vaccines looks like it far exceeds what you really need in order to protect yourself.

We don't have a perfect lab test that will show us just how immune you are. But we do look at something called neutralizing antibodies that do seem to correlate fairly well with protection against infection. And the initial response is orders of magnitude more neutralizing antibodies than we actually need, or that people even achieve, after they actually get COVID-19 infection. So you get this overresponse. And then over time, those antibodies start to wane. Because there's this strong immune response over and above what we actually need, that can wane for months and months before we become vulnerable again.

Q What will be the possible side effects of a third dose?

A So far, it looks like this side effect profile from a third dose is very similar to what was experienced with a second dose—not any worse and perhaps a little milder. That probably has to do with the time that's elapsed since you last had that vaccine.

Getting that initial series, you're taking a vaccine three or four weeks after you just had it and your immune system is really responding robustly, giving people more of those side effects. But after months later, with a booster dose, it doesn't look like there's any more robust immune symptoms that people would have. They can expect to have those typical vaccine side effects: a headache, they could feel tired, they could have a low-grade fever, they could have some muscle aches. And those still happen really quickly and resolve on their own within two to three days.

Q Why should people consider getting a booster shot eight months after their second messenger RNA vaccine dose?

A We are seeing some waning of immunity against the delta variant. We still do find that the vaccines are helping a lot to prevent severe disease and hospitalization, even this many months out. But clearly the delta variant has some resistance to that vaccination, and we want to stop its spread.

So boosting people now means that we can reduce those milder infections and those asymptomatic infections that contribute to spread. And remember when this virus is spreading in our community, even if it's not causing symptoms, it has the chance to mutate. Those mutations can randomly lead to the development of a new variant, and that variant might be even worse than the delta variant. So we need to do everything we can now to stop it.

Q Will people who received the J&J vaccine need a booster?

A There are two interesting things about the J&J vaccine. One is that the company behind the vaccine—Janssen—is actually studying a second dose in that prime series. They're looking at spacing a second dose from that first dose two months apart. We don't have the results of that study yet, and the FDA hasn't given authorization for a second dose in the J&J series—nor has there been any recommendation to do that. We're waiting for full results to be known of that study.

The second thing that's interesting about the J&J vaccine is that there are some data that show over the first six months some markers of immunity that we follow in the research study bloodwork show some improvement in immunity over time. Now we don't know if that's going to translate into continuing to prevent infection at eight months, 10 months down the road. But it is a signal that there's something about that adenovirus vector that may make its actions more prolonged on the immune system than the messenger RNA vaccines.

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MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

Tips for a healthy school year

After a year of full or partial distance learning, many students will be headed back into a physical classroom this fall. In this Mayo Clinic Minute, Dr. Nipunie Rajapakse, a pediatric infectious diseases physician at Mayo Clinic Children's Center, offers some tips for a healthy school year.

"Going into the school year, it's probably going to be another kind of challenging year for kids and families," she says.

Rajapakse says making sure your child has a healthy return to school starts with having conversations.

"Let them know what to expect when they return to school," she says.

For example, talk about if people will be wearing masks and if they will be expected to wear a mask. If your student is eligible, talk with him or her about COVID-19 vaccinations.

It's not just COVID-19. Rajapakse says trends continue to show kids 12 and younger are falling behind in other childhood vaccinations.

"This is a really great time, in the weeks leading up to return to school, to make sure your child, even if they can't get the COVID-19 vaccine, is up to date on all other routine vaccinations."

She also suggests parents pay attention to their kid's mental health as they adjust to returning to the classroom.

"We've seen a significant increase in mental health issues in children and teenagers over the pandemic—increases in depression, anxiety and social isolation. There is quite the adjustment that we expect kids will need to make, especially those who were (participating in) fully online schooling all of last year," says Rajapakse.

Don't hesitate to talk to your child's primary care physician if you notice any concerns. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

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Life & Style

ABBA back after 40 years with new album, virtual stage show

LONDON (AP)—ABBA is releasing its first new music in four decades, along with a concert performance that will see the "Dancing Queen" quartet going entirely digital.

The forthcoming album "Voyage," to be released Nov. 5, is a follow-up to 1981's "The Visitors," which until now had been the swan song of the Swedish supergroup. And a virtual version of the band will begin a series of concerts in London on May 27.

"We took a break in the spring of 1982 and now we've decided it's time to end it," ABBA said in a statement Thursday. "They say it's foolhardy to wait more than 40 years between albums, so we've recorded a follow-up to 'The Visitors.'"

The group has been creating the live show with George Lucas' special-effects company, Industrial Light & Magic. They say the virtual versions of themselves are "weird and wonderful," and go beyond holograms.

Members of the pop group ABBA, from left, Benny Andersson, Agnetha Foltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Anni-Frid Lyngstad, appear in Tokyo on March 14, 1980. AP

"It was suggested to us that we could go on tour as a hologram. And this is now four, five years ago," Björn Ulvaeus, ABBA's 76-year-old guitarist, backup singer and co-songwriter said at a news conference Thursday. "And we found out very soon that that wasn't even possible because holograms is an old technology, but I mean, the vision was there of having our digital selves, that even was a possibility."

"And also," said Benny Andersson, 74, who plays keyboards, sings and writes songs with Ulvaeus, "we want to do it before we were dead."

Ulvaeus added, "it's good if you do that before you dead. Because it gets more accurate then."

They sang and played together for hours every day for weeks, using motion capture and other techniques to create the 22-song, approximately 90-minute show.

"We dressed up in a leotards with dots or little things on them," Ulvaeus said. "And we had dots in our faces and helmets with cameras. And there we were, the four of us on stage together doing these songs."

They say it was hard work but a great pleasure, but for one thing.

"I'd say the only big problem was that we had to shave our beards," Andersson said. "I've had my beard for 50 years."

The planned show spurred the making of the album, which features the new songs "I Still Have Faith In You" and "Don't Shut Me Down." It began with sessions in 2018 and was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

"It was so joyful to be together in the studio again, the four of us," Andersson said."

Half-shredded Banksy could fetch over $5 million at auction

LONDON (AP)—A Banksy artwork that sensationally self-shredded just after it sold for $1.4 million is up for sale again—at several times the previous price.

Auctioneer Sotheby's said Friday that "Love is in the Bin" will be offered at a sale in London on Oct. 14. The piece has a pre-sale estimate of 4 million pounds to 6 million pounds ($5.5 million to $8.3 million).

It consists of a half-shredded canvas bearing a spray-painted image of a girl reaching for a heart-shaped red balloon.

Then known as "Girl With Balloon," the work was sold at Sotheby's in October 2018. Just as an anonymous European buyer made the winning bid, a hidden shredder embedded in the frame by Banksy whirred to life, leaving half the canvas hanging from the frame in strips.

The buyer decided to go through with the purchase—a decision that would be vindicated if the picture achieves its estimated price.

Alex Branczik, Sotheby's chairman of Modern and Contemporary Art, described "Love is in the Bin" as "the ultimate Banksy artwork and a true icon of recent art history."

"Love is in the Bin was born of the most spectacular artistic happening of the 21st century," he said. "When 'Girl With Balloon' 'self-destructed' in our saleroom, Banksy sparked a global sensation that has since become a cultural phenomenon."

Art handlers at Sotheby's auction house hold Banksy's 'Love is in the Bin', before it returns to auction at Sotheby's, London, Friday, Sept. 3, 2021. A Banksy artwork that was sensationally shredded just after it sold for $1.4 million us up for sale again–at several times the price. Sotheby's said Friday that "Love is in the Bin" will be offered at an Oct. 14 auction in London, with a pre-sale estimate of 4 million pounds to 6 million pounds ($5.5 million to $8.3 million). DOMINIC LIPINSKI/PA VIA AP

China bans men it sees as not masculine enough from TV

BEIJING (AP)—China's government banned effeminate men on TV and told broadcasters Thursday to promote "revolutionary culture," broadening a campaign to tighten control over business and society and enforce official morality.

President Xi Jinping has called for a "national rejuvenation," with tighter Communist Party control of business, education, culture and religion. Companies and the public are under increasing pressure to align with its vision for a more powerful China and healthier society.

The party has reduced children's access to online games and is trying to discourage what it sees as unhealthy attention to celebrities.

Broadcasters must "resolutely put an end to sissy men and other abnormal esthetics," the National Radio and TV Administration said, using an insulting slang term for effeminate men—"niang pao," or literally, "girlie guns."

That reflects official concern that Chinese pop stars, influenced by the sleek, fashionable look of some South Korean and Japanese singers and actors, are failing to encourage China's young men to be masculine enough.

Broadcasters should avoid promoting "vulgar internet celebrities" and admiration of wealth and celebrity, the regulator said. Instead, programs should "vigorously promote excellent Chinese traditional culture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture."

Xi's government also is tightening control over Chinese internet industries.

It has launched anti-monopoly, data security and other enforcement actions at companies including games and social media provider Tencent Holding and e-commerce giant Alibaba Group that the ruling party worries are too big and independent.

Rules that took effect Wednesday limit anyone under 18 to three hours per week of online games and prohibit play on school days.

Game developers already were required to submit new titles for government approval before they could be released. Officials have called on them to add nationalistic themes.

Boyfriend proving to be not much of a father

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend, "Nick," for 10 years. We have been through a lot. We have a 3-year-old son, and Nick's mom passed away shortly after his birth. Nick now tells me he doesn't want to watch our son, that he wants his time for himself. All I need is for him to watch him one day a week while I'm at work. My family helps the other days.

I have a good job, which Nick wants me to leave and move across the country with him. I feel it would be a mistake to move before our cars are paid off and our son is in school, which will all happen in a year. It just seems logical, so we won't have someone we don't know watching our kid, especially because I can't predict when Nick will be in dad mode and want to watch him.

Nick says he doesn't want to wait and he's threatening to go without me. He said he didn't sign up for kids in the first place. I don't want our relationship to end. I don't want to be a single mom. I feel like we could work this out, but I don't know how. Help, please.

SO UNSURE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SO UNSURE: It's time to face reality. You ARE a single mom. What exactly do you think you can work out with your boyfriend, who "didn't sign up for kids in the first place"? Nick has made plain that he doesn't want the responsibility of fatherhood. He will, however, have a legal responsibility to support his son financially. Do not allow yourself to be rushed into moving. Your reasons for wanting to wait make sense. You have steady employment where you are and relatives who provide safe, reliable child care for your little boy, who may reach adulthood before his father does.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother passed away a couple of years ago. She had a very nice man, "Ron," as a partner for several years before her death. Since Mom's funeral, I have done my best to spend time with him and check in to see how he is. Unfortunately, he has a habit of stopping by my home unannounced -- usually on Sunday evenings. I know he's lonely, and I feel terrible asking this. How can I tell him in a nice way that my husband and I don't like surprise visits when we're getting ready for the workweek ahead or relaxing by the pool? I'm starting to resent having to be "presentable" for a drop-by visit when all I want is to unwind at the end of a weekend.

CRAVING SUNDAY SOLITUDE

DEAR CRAVING: You should have drawn the line within a few months after your mother's passing. The way to handle this would be to say to him the next time he shows up unannounced, "Ron, we already have plans for tonight. (Pause.) You know we care about you, but in the future, please call before dropping by because we sometimes need to relax and prepare for the workweek ahead."

TO THOSE WHO CELEBRATE ROSH HASHANA: At sundown tonight, the Jewish new year begins. At this time of solemn introspection, I wish my Jewish readers, "L'shana tova tikatevu"—may you be inscribed in the Book of Life and have a good year.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

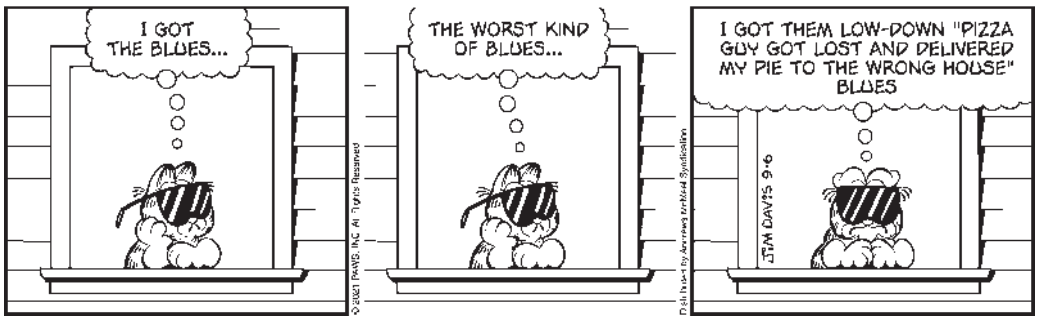
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

A BEE LANDED ON YOUR BACK!
A BEE?! ACCKK! GET IT AWAY!!
DON'T MOVE, AND IT WON'T STING YOU.
JUST STAND STILL AND TRY NOT TO IMAGINE THAT IT MIGHT VERY WELL CRAWL DOWN YOUR SHIRT AND INTO YOUR PANTS!
HE IMAGINED IT.
YOWW!

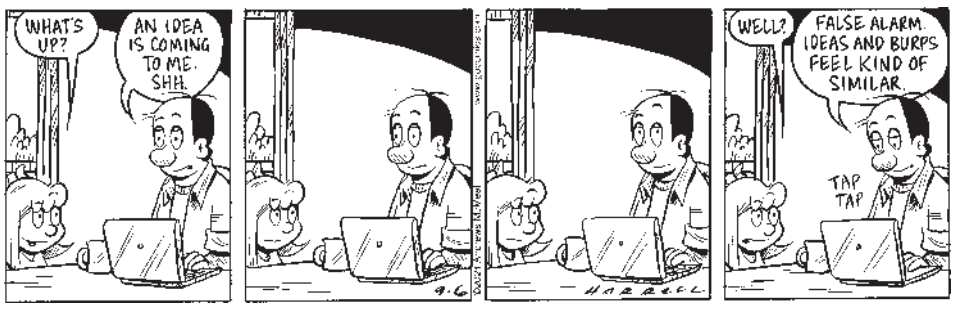
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I GOT THE BLUES...
THE WORST KIND OF BLUES...
I GOT THEM LOW-DOWN "PIZZA GUY GOT LOST AND DELIVERED MY PIE TO THE WRONG HOUSE" BLUES
JIM DAVIS 9-6

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS SHOW IS GETTING WAY TOO BIG.
WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?
"ANTARCTICA'S GOT TALENT."
WHOA, THAT'S A LOT OF PENGUINS.
MORE THAN I CARE TO SEE DANCING THE Boot-Scootin' Boogie.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Norwegian saint
5 WWII service person
8 Competent
12 Salt formula
13 Sound of wonderment
14 Cranny
15 Art Deco master
16 Prude
18 Modifying word
20 Hesitated
21 Pop flavor
23 Game caller
24 Punk jewelry
28 Lighten
31 "Shoo!"
32 Bigfoot's relatives
34 Wall climber
35 Chanteuse Edith
37 Feel right
39 Abolish
41 Bygone jets
42 Mink relatives
45 C's equivalent, in music
49 Loyal
51 Frozen drink brand
52 Ref. work
53 Schedule abbr.
54 Russo of "The Intern"
55 Fifth Avenue store
56 Glutton
57 Russian ruler

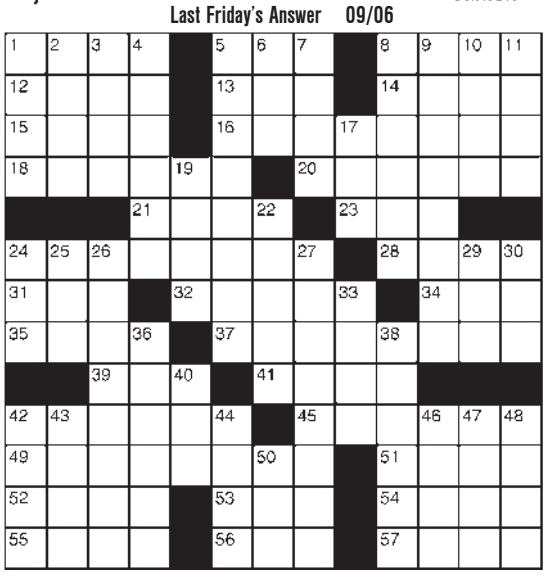
DOWN

1 Draft status
2 Cooking fat
3 Last part of "Hamlet"
4 Sheep's coat
5 More unsteady
6 Gmail alternative
7 Great Lakes fish
8 Founder of the Shakers, in the U.S.
9 Publishers' expo
10 Misplace
11 Scratched (out)
17 Listener
19 Golfer McIlroy
22 Those opposed
24 Trio after M
25 French "yes"
26 Ahab's first mate
27 "Howl" poet Allen
29 "Law & Order: —"
30 Storm center
33 LAPD ranks
36 Steak choices
38 Casual top
40 Cotillion celeb
42 Norms (Abbr.)
43 Met solo
44 High-five sound
46 Experts
47 Sofer of soaps
48 Equal
50 Swiss canton

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	C	S		C	F	O	C		M	O	O	T
B	O	P		H	A	I	R		I	O	N	S
C	R	E	V	A	S	S	E		C	H	O	P
S	E	C	A	N	T		M	A	R			
			P	T	A		O	B	O	I	S	T
C	L	U	E	S		U	N	C		T	A	U
N	F	D	S		C	P	A		B	A	R	B
B	I	C		M	E	S		C	E	L	I	A
C	A	N		N	E		R	R	S			
			M	O	W		H	U	T	T	O	N
W	A	D	E		C	R	E	S	S	I	D	A
C	N	E	A		L	N	T	O		N	O	D
K	E	E	N		T	A	T	E		E	R	A

Last Friday's Answer 09/06



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Idris Elba, 49; Rosie Perez, 57; Jane Curtin, 74; Swoosie Kurtz, 77.

Happy Birthday: The changes you make will broaden your outlook. Expect information to surface that will give rise to new possibilities. A partnership will encourage you to make a move or lifestyle change conducive to using your attributes efficiently and allowing yourself more time to enjoy what life has to offer. Don't sell yourself short; believe and invest in yourself. Your numbers are 6, 14, 22, 24, 33, 36, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make the necessary changes to maintain your position, integrity and reputation, and get back to what matters most to you. Pitch an idea to someone you enjoy working with, and together you will develop a plan and a personal arrangement. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Change and happiness begin with you. How you handle others and the situations you face will determine the outcome. Procrastination and inconsistency will hold you back. Put your energy into honoring the promises you make and finishing what you start. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Envision the whole picture, view your cup as half full and embrace what life has to offer. Refuse to let trivial matters hold you back or ruin your day. Call things as you see them, and show honesty and integrity, not falsehoods. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* What you do will make a difference. Stop talking and start doing, and you'll get the help you need to get things done. Put your energy where it counts, and the stability and confidence you gain will help you reach your dreams. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take a serious look at money matters and how you earn and handle your cash. Consider what's happening economically, and initiate a move that will help you position yourself for new endeavors. Being modern is a necessity if you want to maintain your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take the path less traveled, and figure out what you want along the way. Draw on the experience, and it will encourage you to initiate the changes that bring you closer to your goals. Explore what's available, and harness what you want. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Work hard, play hard. Live in the moment, and enjoy what life has to offer. Refuse to get bogged down in melodramas or other people's problems. Focus on your happiness and having a positive impact on others. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Ask, and you shall receive. A change in a relationship with a peer will lead to questions regarding your background. Don't overreact; charm will get you much further ahead than causing a scene. Patience and intelligence will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put one foot in front of the other until you reach your destination. Productivity and progress are priorities. Don't believe or act on hearsay. Question anyone trying to push you in a direction you don't want to go. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Before you make a change, consider the pros and cons that await you. Keep an open mind, but don't take an unnecessary risk. You'll gain more if you are conservative. Don't buy into someone's idea; follow your dream. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay more attention to health, fitness and finances. Think matters through, and be secretive regarding your intentions until you have every detail taken care of and ready to launch. Don't let a sudden change someone makes disrupt your plans. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Participate in a life-changing experience, and you will find solidarity and peace of mind. A work-related change will encourage you to get involved in something that makes you feel passionate. Explore the possibilities, and gravitate toward people who share your concerns. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are precise, knowledgeable and generous. You are curious and unique.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4		8		1				5
			3			6		
	6		7		9			1
		4	6		5	3	1	
8				3				9
	2	5	1		7	8		
5			8		4		9	
		7			1			
9				6		2		8

Difficulty Level ★ 9/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	3	5	1	4	7	8	6	2
7	8	6	2	5	3	4	9	1
4	1	2	8	9	6	5	7	3
5	6	1	7	3	4	9	2	8
2	4	9	6	1	8	3	5	7
3	7	8	5	2	9	6	1	4
6	2	7	3	8	5	1	4	9
8	5	4	9	7	1	2	3	6
1	9	3	4	6	2	7	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BACKUP SINGERS **Solution: 9 letters**

S	O	N	A	R	P	O	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	D
U	I	V	T	S	I	O	L	O	S	O	Y	C	O	A
S	D	M	M	L	E	A	D	S	G	N	I	S	U	N
T	U	E	U	E	E	T	U	M	O	A	T	D	R	C
A	T	B	G	L	Z	B	S	M	L	R	I	O	L	I
I	S	A	R	N	T	Z	R	T	E	T	L	Y	A	N
N	M	C	O	D	A	A	O	C	I	O	A	R	S	G
I	S	K	U	I	H	R	N	O	M	O	K	T	R	N
N	E	G	P	S	R	O	N	E	T	C	L	N	A	A
G	S	R	N	C	C	Y	R	A	O	I	L	U	E	I
O	S	O	B	O	I	T	R	R	S	U	R	O	H	C
S	I	U	A	M	S	B	I	T	S	O	S	C	E	I
P	O	N	S	T	I	O	B	A	N	D	U	L	R	S
E	N	D	S	V	H	T	T	O	N	E	S	N	Y	U
L	A	T	I	C	E	R	E	E	R	A	C	S	D	M

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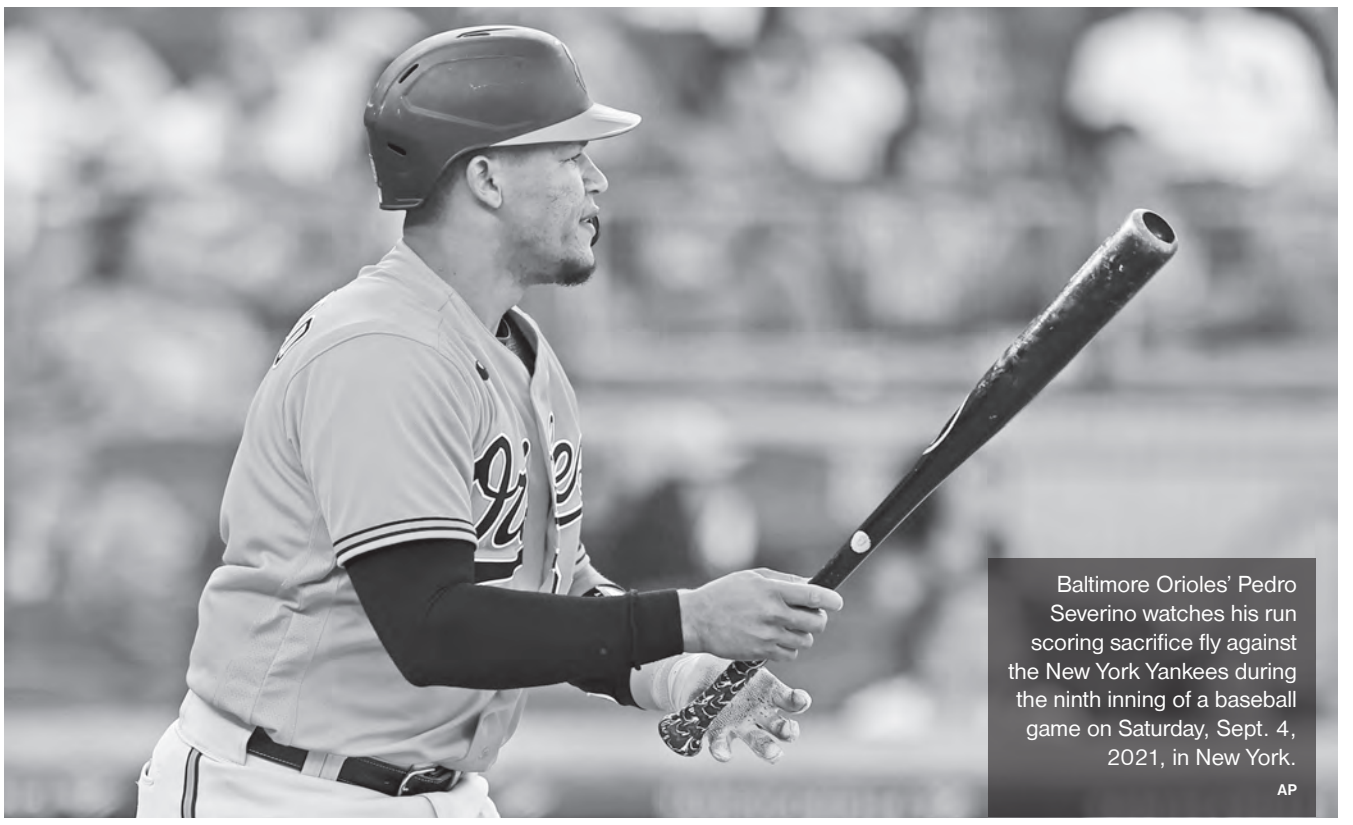
Alto, Audition, Background, Band, Bass, Belt, Career, Choir, Chorus, Concert, Country, Dancing, Disco, Entry, Gospel, Group, Harmony, Image, Lead, List, Mezzo, Musician, Mute, Range, Recital, Rehearsal, Rock, Session, Sets, Simultaneously, Sings, Soloist, Songs, Soprano, Sound, Studio, Support, Sustaining, Tenor, Timbre, Tones, Tour, Tremolo, Vibrato

Last Friday's Answer: Beaches

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Severino's sacrifice fly in 9th sends Orioles past Yanks, 4-3



Baltimore Orioles' Pedro Severino watches his run scoring sacrifice fly against the New York Yankees during the ninth inning of a baseball game on Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021, in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Aroldis Chapman gave up Pedro Severino's tiebreaking sacrifice fly with the bases loaded in the ninth inning and the New York Yankees lost to Baltimore 4-3 Saturday after the last-place Orioles took a no-hitter into the seventh.

Joey Gallo's two-run homer in the eighth tied it at 3, and manager Aaron Boone went to his All-Star closer with the save taken out of play.

Ryan Mountcastle struck out against Chapman (5-4) leading off but reached via wild pitch. Austin Hays singled and Trey Mancini walked to load the bases, and Chapman struck out Ramón Urías before Severino's fly to deep left field easily scored Mountcastle from third.

Pinch-hitter Gleyber Torres ended Baltimore's unexpected no-hit bid with an RBI infield single with one out in the seventh that bounced off second baseman Jahmai Jones' glove.

Cole Sulser (4-3) got the last out of the eighth and pitched a perfect ninth to end Baltimore's three-hitter.

Rookie right-hander Chris Ellis allowed several hard line drives but held New York without a hit over five innings. Tanner Scott worked a perfect sixth before running into trouble in the seventh.

Dodgers 6, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Trea Turner and Corey Seager homered, Julio Urías won his seventh straight decision, and Los Angeles moved into a tie for first place with San Francisco atop the NL West Division.

Turner homered leading off the game to set the tone for the Dodgers' fourth win in five contests. Turner extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Buster Posey was 3 for 4 with an RBI double for San Francisco, which lost for the fifth time in seven games.

The Dodgers have won 21 of their last 26 games.

Urías (16-3) extended his lead as the winningest pitcher in the majors with another solid outing. The left-hander struck out eight, walked none, and gave up one run on eight hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Jay Jackson (2-1) started and took the loss. He gave up three runs in a third of an inning in a bullpen game in which the Giants used eight pitchers.

Angels 4, Rangers 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 43rd home run and Jose Suarez pitched a five-hitter, leading Los Angeles over Texas.

Ohtani connected for a three-run homer in the sixth inning.

Suarez (6-7) tossed his first career complete game in the majors. He struck out eight, walked none and threw 100 pitches.

The only run for Texas came in the ninth inning when Leody Taveras reached on an infield single and later scored on Adolis Garcia's groundout.

Kolby Allard (3-12) retired the first seven batters of the game. Juan Lagares hit a solo home run in the third.

Padres 10, Astros 2

In San Diego, Manny Machado, Wil Myers and Fernando Tatis Jr. each hit an impressive two-run home run and Joe Musgrove had a solid outing against one of his former teams as San Diego beat AL West-leading Houston.

Tatis slugged his NL-leading 37th homer and hit a go-ahead, two-run single during the four-run second inning for the Padres, who remain a half-game behind the Cincinnati Reds in the race for the NL's second wild-card spot.

Musgrove (10-8) held the Astros to two runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings while striking out four and walking one.

Kyle Tucker homered for Houston. Framber Valdez' (9-7) took the loss.

Rockies 7, Braves 6

In Denver, Charlie Blackmon homered for the third straight game, Raimel Tapia had a go-ahead sacrifice fly and Colorado edged Atlanta.

C.J. Cron also homered for the Rockies.

Ozzie Albies homered for the second time in as many games for the NL East-leading Braves, who remained two games in front of the Philadelphia Phillies. Travis d'Arnaud added a homer in the ninth.

The Braves loaded the bases with one out in the top of the eighth off Daniel Bard, but Robert Stephenson relieved and limited the damage to a run on Dansby Swanson's sacrifice fly. He struck out Joc Pederson for the final out of the inning.

Carlos Estévez picked up his fifth save in nine chances.

With the score tied at 4-all heading into the bottom of the sixth, the Rockies finally broke through against a Braves bullpen that had thrown 10 1/3 scoreless innings to that point in the first three games of the teams' four-game set.

Tyler Kinley (3-2), picked up the win. A.J. Minter (2-5) took the loss.

Blue Jays 10, Athletics 8

In Toronto, Teoscar Hernández hit his 100th career home run, José Berríos took a no-hitter into the fifth inning and Toronto beat Oakland for its sixth victory in seven games.

Breyvic Valera hit a two-run homer while Danny Jansen and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. each had solo shots for Toronto.

Mark Canha hit a three-run homer for Oakland and finished with four RBIs. Sean Murphy added a two-run blast and Matt Chapman hit a solo shot.

Berríos (10-7) allowed three runs and four hits in 6 2-3 innings. He walked none and struck out seven.

Oakland's Paul Blackburn (0-2) allowed four runs and nine hits in 3 2-3 innings.

Rays 11, Twins 4

In St. Petersburgh, Fla., Yandy Díaz hit one of the Rays› franchise record-tying six homers and drove in four runs, Wander Franco extended his on-base streak to 34 games and AL East-leading Tampa Bay beat Minnesota.

Díaz had an RBI single in the first inning and a three-run homer off Andrew Albers during a five-run second.

Franco broke a tie with Hall of Famers Mel Ott and Arky Vaughan for the third-longest streak by a player under 21 on his first-inning RBI single.

Jordan Luplow, Manuel Margot, Randy Arozarena, Nelson Cruz and Brandon Lowe also homered for Rays.

Cubs 7, Pirates 6

In Chicago, rookie Frank Schwindel's RBI single capped a three-run rally with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting Chicago over Pittsburgh for its fifth straight win.

Schwindel had three hits, including a solo home run. Alfonso Rivas singled home a run in the ninth that drew the Cubs within 6-5 and Rafael Ortega's third hit of the game tied it.

Scott Effross (1-0) pitched the ninth for the win. Chris Stratton (5-1) took the loss.

Mets 11, Nationals 9, 9 innings, 1st game Nationals 4, Mets 3, 2nd game

In Washington, Lane Thomas and Alcides Escobar homered as Washington ended a seven-game skid with a victory in the second game of a doubleheader for a split.

The Mets won the opener after blowing a nine-run lead before bouncing back on Francisco Lindor's two-run homer in the ninth inning.

New York began the day four games behind Atlanta in the NL East and four games back of Cincinnati for the second wild-card spot.

Michael Conforto put the Mets ahead in the nightcap with an RBI single in the first. Thomas homered to lead off the bottom of the first and Carter Kieboom's single gave the Nationals a 2-1 lead.

Washington starter Josh Rogers (1-0) earned his first big league win since 2018, cruising through five innings. He allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings and struck out five. Kyle Finnegan pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Kevin Pillar hit his 13th homer of the season for the Mets. Tyler Megill (2-4) pitched six innings and allowed four runs. He struck out eight.

Ahead 9-0 in the fourth inning of the first game, the Mets saw the Nationals force extra innings on Andrew Stevenson's two-out, two-run homer in the seventh that made it 9-all.

Marlins 3, Phillies 2

In Miami, Lewis Brinson hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning and Miami rallied to beat Philadelphia.

Brinson's opposite-field shot off reliever Archie Bradley (7-3) ricocheted off the inside of the foul pole in right field for his eighth homer, punctuating a three-run inning.

Bryan De La Cruz hit a leadoff double and scored on Miguel Rojas' RBI single. With two out, Brinson ended an 0-for-9 funk with the homer.

Anthony Bass (2-7) struck out the side in a scoreless eighth, and Dylan Floro followed with a scoreless ninth after a leadoff walk, picking up his eighth save.

Red Sox 4, Indians 3

In Boston, Alex Verdugo hit an RBI single with bases loaded and two out in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Boston a win over Cleveland.

Verdugo's two-strike hit over Daniel Johnson's head in right field spoiled a comeback try by Cleveland, which tied with three runs in the top of the ninth.

Boston took the lead in the seventh inning when Rafael Devers hit a three-run homer, his 33rd of the season.

Bobby Bradley hit an RBI double in the top of the ninth inning, and Franmil Reyes tied the score with a two-run homer, his 25th of the season.

Brewers 4, Cardinals 0

In Milwaukee, Adrian Houser pitched Milwaukee's first complete-game shutout since 2014 and his first pro shutout, throwing a three-hitter that led the Brewers over St. Louis.

Houser (8-6) didn't allow a runner until Nolan Arenado led off the fifth inning with a single. He struck out seven and walked none.

Luis Urias led off the Milwaukee first with his 19th home run. The Brewers added three runs in the second on RBI singles by Rowdy Tellez and Urias and a ground-rule double by Luke Maile.

Reds 7, Tigers 4

In Cincinnati, Aristides Aquino hit a three-run homer, Tyler Naquin drove in two with a pinch-hit triple and Cincinnati beat Detroit.

Eric Haase hit a three-run homer to put the Tigers up in the third, but the Reds answered with the big inning of their own.

A bases-loaded walk to Dustin Garneau in the Tigers fourth made it a one-run game. But Tyler Mahle (11-5) got out of it with no further damage.

Mahle went five innings, allowing six hits and four runs while striking out eight.

White Sox 10, Royals 7

In Kansas City, Mo., Yasmani Grandal went 3 for 3 with a home run and four RBIs as Chicago built a big lead and held off Salvador Perez and Kansas City.

Perez hit two homers, including his 40th of the season, and drove in five runs.

Luis Robert homered and tied a career high with four hits for the AL Central-leading White Sox.

Mariners 8, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Kyle Seager hit a pair of three-run homers, J.P. Crawford added four hits and two RBIs and Seattle beat Arizona.

Seager's homers were his 32nd and 33rd of the season. His six RBIs were a season high. Crawford's four hits were also a season high.

Seattle kept pace in the AL playoff race. The Mariners are four games behind the Red Sox for the final wild card spot. The Mariners have won five of six games. The Diamondbacks have dropped seven of eight.

Marco Gonzales (7-5) gave up five runs over five innings. Diego Castillo earned his 16th save.

Djokovic lets emotions show at US Open; No. 1 Barty loses

Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, reacts after scoring a point against Kei Nishikori, of Japan, during the third round of the US Open tennis championships, Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021, in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Novak Djokovic did not seek to keep his thoughts to himself on court Saturday, the way he mostly did through his first two U.S. Open matches. Instead, he let it all out, slapping his chest or sneering with a fist raised to celebrate success, pointing to his ear to ask the crowd for noise.

This was the Djokovic everyone is so accustomed to seeing—yes, winning on the Grand Slam stage, of course, as he always does in this magical season, but also animated and into it, encouraging the spectators to join him for the ride on his path toward tennis history.

Taking another step in his bid to complete the first calendar-year Slam by a man in more than a half-century, Djokovic moved into the fourth round at Flushing Meadows for the 14th consecutive appearance, coming back to beat Kei Nishikori 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

"I don't plan to have those kind of emotional moments on the court, whether good or bad. It just happens," Djokovic said. "In the heat of the battle, when you feel like the moment is very important ... you just want to get those things out of yourself, out of your system—try to, I guess, ride on that energy wave that you create, whether it's with yourself, whether it's with the crowd."

So the No. 1-seeded Djokovic managed to avoid the rash of upsets that have hit the tournament, but the top-seeded woman, Ash Barty, did not. A day after defending champion Naomi Osaka and two of the top five men, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Andrey Rublev were beaten, Barty blew a big lead in the final set and lost to 43rd-ranked Shelby Rogers of the U.S. 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (5) on Saturday night.

Rogers was a quarterfinalist in New York a year ago, while Barty owns titles from the French Open in 2019 and Wimbledon this July but never has been past the fourth round at Flushing Meadows.

Coming into this match, Barty was 5-0 against Rogers and then went up two breaks at 5-2 in the third set.

Rogers' mindset at that point?

"Can't get any worse. You've lost to her every time," said Rogers, who plays 18-year-old Emma Raducanu of Britain on Monday. "Try something different."

Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia, is now 24-0 in the sport's four most important events this season, having won the Australian Open in February, the French Open in June and Wimbledon in July. The last man to go 4 for 4 at the majors was Rod Laver in 1969; Steffi Graf was the last woman, in 1988.

Win four more matches next week, and Djokovic also would earn his 21st career Slam trophy, breaking the men's mark he currently shares with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

"I would not be honest fully if I told you I don't think or I don't believe or I don't visualize that I can win every single Grand Slam that I play in," Djokovic said. "I'm not surprised when I win Slams and big tournaments because that's always a goal."

It was in the fourth round last year that Djokovic's U.S. Open ended, defaulted late in the first set for hitting a ball after ceding a game and inadvertently hitting a line judge in the throat.

Now he'll play wild-card entry Jenson Brooksby, who edged 21st-seeded Aslan Karatsev in five sets to become, at 20, the youngest American man in the round of 16 at the U.S. Open since Andy Roddick in 2002.

Other players advancing included Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini and No. 13 Jannik Sinner—they gave Italy a pair of men in the U.S. Open's fourth round for the first time in the event's 140-year history—along with 22nd-seeded American Reilly Opelka and South African Lloyd Harris, who beat seventh-seeded Denis Shapovalov in straight sets. In women's action, Olympic women's gold medalist Belinda Bencic, 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu, 2020 French Open champion Iga Swiatek and two-time major finalist Karolina Pliskova reached the fourth round.

After eliminating a couple of inexperienced opponents ranked 121st and 145th, Djokovic faced someone with a far better resume in Nishikori, who was the runner-up at the 2014 U.S. Open and has been as high as No. 4.

Here, though, was the problem for Nishikori heading into this encounter: He'd lost his last 16 matches against Djokovic. And while Nishikori, to loud roars from the stands in Arthur Ashe Stadium, stole the first set, the march to No. 17 in a row was soon in progress.

"I don't think I started off very well. I was quite passive. I was too far back in the court. He was dictating the play," Djokovic said. "He played much quicker and more aggressive than my opponents in the opening rounds did."

One key stat: Djokovic made 20 unforced errors in the first set, then reduced that to an average of 10 1/2 per set over the last three.

Here's more: Djokovic came up with a high-for-him 15 aces. "I couldn't break the wall," Nishikori said. "He's very tough 'til the end."

And Djokovic reacted to vital moments with joy, eliciting similar displays from fans, who were barred from the tournament in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The crowd was involved. It was loud. It was nice," Djokovic said. "I thrived on that."

When he broke to lead 2-1 in the second set by winning a fantastic point that ended with both men near the net, he spun around and yelled, mouth agape. In his guest box, his wife, Jelena, stood and shouted, "Come on!" When Djokovic saved a break point in the third set, he indicated he wanted louder cheers by reaching for his right ear, then wagging his fingers. When he broke to go up 5-3, he pursed his lips to say, "Ooh!" In the next game, he reacted to a netted drop shot by tapping himself on the head with his racket three times, then screamed first toward one side of the stands, then another, when he claimed that set.

Djokovic described his improved play as the match wore on, stretching past 3 1/2 hours, as "getting that groove back and getting that rhythm."

In other words, he might just be hitting his stride.

"Maybe," Nishikori said, "he's feeling that inside—a lot of pressure—but I couldn't see that during the match."

Newlywed disagreement: Svitolina, Monfils differ on the draw

NEW YORK (AP)—The tennis newlyweds are having a disagreement.

Elina Svitolina, like many players, will only think about the match directly in front of her.

Her husband, Gael Monfils, likes to look a few rounds down the road for his possible opponents.

"But I try to tell him ... you have to be looking one match at a time," Svitolina said with a laugh.

However they do it, things are working for both players, who were married in July.

The fifth-seeded Svitolina beat No. 25 Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 6-2 on Friday to set up a fourth-round matchup with No. 12 Simona Halep, a two-time Grand Slam champion.

Monfils, the No. 17 seed, faces 13th-seeded Jannik Sinner on Saturday. Svitolina probably already knew that, saying she probably checks out his bracket more than her own.

"I'm happy that we're playing different days," Svitolina said, "because then we can focus on one person, then the other one."

NOT A BAD DEBUT

Hard to believe that Barbora Krejcikova is playing in the U.S. Open's singles main draw for the first time. She is, after all, a Grand Slam champion already.

Still, that success at the French Open in June—when she became the first woman in 21 years to win the singles and doubles trophies at Roland Garros—has not made her take any of what's happening now at Flushing Meadows for granted.

"I don't just take it as something ordinary," the No. 8-seeded Krejcikova said Friday after getting to the fourth round in New York with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Kamilla Rakhimova. "I just think it's very special."

The 25-year-old from the Czech Republic used the word "special" a few times while discussing what's been going on for her on the court this year.

"Amazing,"' too.

Consider: She entered 2021 with two Grand Slam trophies in doubles but just a trio of appearances at majors in singles. One problem was repeated failures to make it into the main draw via qualifying.

After her triumphs in Paris, Krejcikova followed that up by getting to the fourth round in her Wimbledon debut before losing to eventual champion Ash Barty. Now comes a matchup with two-time major champion Garbiñe Muguruza for a berth in the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

"I'm just really happy that I don't have to go through the quallies anymore," Krejcikova said. "I hope it's going to stay like this and I don't have to play the quallies anymore."

At this rate, that won't be an issue.

STALLED RUN

Stefanos Tsitsipas can take all the time he wants in the bathroom now that he's out of the U.S. Open.

Booed by the New York crowd and blasted by some peers for his lengthy breaks in the bathroom—is he just changing clothes or up to something else?—the third-seeded Tsitsipas' run ended in the third round Friday against 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz.

Before the U.S. Open, Olympic gold medalist Alexander Zverev accused Tsitsipas of getting help via phone messages from his father, who's also his coach, on a lengthy trip to the bathroom during their semifinal at the Cincinnati Masters. Coaching is not allowed during matches.

Andy Murray said he "lost respect" for Tsitsipas following their first-round match because of the eight-minute bathroom break Tsitsipas took between the fourth and fifth sets.

"All these accusations have been completely false," Tsitsipas said. "The one in my match in Cincinnati, which was the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard in my life—I don't know what to say."

As for the jeers from spectators this week, Tsitsipas said: "I feel like, you know, people, they don't understand. They are here for the show. They want to watch tennis. They're very impatient, especially the new generation. They just want to get it done quick."

Unlike Tsitsipas when he leaves the court.

He says he isn't breaking the rules, which is true, because Grand Slam regulations just say players should be gone for "a reasonable time."

Tsitsipas said if stronger time limits were enforced, he would follow them.

"I took my toilet break as a normal athlete," he said. "Might have taken a bit longer than other athletes. But if there is a rule that says there's a specific amount of time that you are allowed to take, then I would probably try and follow that protocol, that rule, and stay within the guidelines and try and follow it as much as possible."

Rajon Rondo re-signs with Lakers for another title push

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Rajon Rondo saw the opportunity to add his youth and energy to a championship-contending team, the 35-year-old point guard jumped at the chance to return to the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I'm most excited about not being the oldest guy on the team anymore," Rondo said with only the slightest grin. "I'm actually probably bottom five now, so that's a big step for me, going from two months ago I was the oldest guy on the team, and now I'm considered one of the young guys. I'm looking forward to it."

The extremely experienced Lakers announced their latest deal with a 30-something veteran Tuesday, bringing back Rondo on a one-year contract. Less than a year after Rondo played an important role as a reserve and a team leader on Los Angeles' 17th NBA championship team, the veteran point guard is back in purple and gold to provide the same leadership in another title chase.

"We didn't get our parade, but coming off not even a year being a champion, want to do it again," Rondo said. "(We) want, obviously, a parade here in LA, and this is a special team that could possibly make that happen."

Los Angeles Lakers guard Rajon Rondo (9) goes up for a shot over Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokic, right, as Nuggets' Michael Porter Jr., left, looks on during the first half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball Western Conference final in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., in this Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020, file photo. AP

The Lakers have assembled an eye-raising roster stacked with seasoned talent around LeBron James and Anthony Davis heading into the new season, which begins with training camp in four weeks.

Los Angeles acquired former league MVP Russell Westbrook in a trade with Washington to join Carmelo Anthony, Trevor Ariza, Kent Bazemore, Wayne Ellington, Dwight Howard and returnee Marc Gasol.

Rondo, Howard, Ariza, Ellington and Bazemore are all former Lakers returning to the team. The Lakers also could still re-sign 34-year-old wing Wesley Matthews.

While their fortunes are likely to hinge on the health of their well-traveled core, Rondo says the group is highly motivated to reward the Lakers' faith in their experience.

"I look forward to proving people wrong and understanding that age doesn't make a difference," Rondo said. "A lot of the guys on the team still have a lot left in the tank, and (we're) going against all odds and getting it done."

Rondo's past nine months have been awfully busy: The four-time All-Star signed with Atlanta as a free agent last November shortly after winning a ring with the Lakers, and he was traded to the Clippers last March ahead of their run to the Western Conference finals.

The Clippers traded Rondo to the Grizzlies two weeks ago along with Patrick Beverley in the deal sending Eric Bledsoe back to LA. Rondo agreed to a buyout with Memphis last Saturday and quickly rejoined a title contender.

Lakers coach Frank Vogel told Rondo that the team missed his voice in the locker room last season, which ended with a first-round loss to the Phoenix Suns after James and Davis both missed extensive playing time with injuries in the second half.

"I think I'm one of the most competitive guys in the league, and I love to win," Rondo said. "Being put in a situation now where we have an opportunity to win a championship, and it's only a few, a handful of teams that can say it in the beginning of training camp, and we're one of them this year."

Few NBA players can surpass Rondo's playoff experience. He has appeared in 134 postseason games for six franchises, averaging 12.5 points and 8.5 assists.

Rondo was a role player for the Lakers during the coronavirus-interrupted regular season in 2020, but his responsibilities increased sharply in the postseason. He averaged 8.9 points and 6.6 assists per game while hitting 40% of his 3-pointers in the Florida bubble, winning over many of the Lakers fans that didn't like his ball-dominant playing style.

Rondo will have even less of the ball when James or Westbrook are on the floor with him, but he is looking forward to being a teammate of Anthony and Ariza for the first time in their lengthy careers, and he intends to test his new teammates in practice.

"We've had a lot of great battles, a lot of these guys that's now teammates," Rondo said. "I'm looking forward to putting everything in the past and putting it together for the greater good of the team and winning a championship here."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	86	50	.632	–
New York	78	57	.578	7½
Boston	79	59	.572	8
Toronto	72	62	.537	13
Baltimore	42	92	.313	43

Central Division

Chicago	79	57	.581	–
Cleveland	67	66	.504	10½
Detroit	64	73	.467	15½
Kansas City	60	75	.444	18½
Minnesota	58	77	.430	20½

West Division

Houston	79	56	.585	–
Oakland	74	62	.544	5½
Seattle	74	62	.544	5½
Los Angeles	68	68	.500	11½
Texas	47	88	.348	32

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	71	64	.526	–
Philadelphia	69	66	.511	2
New York	68	68	.500	3½
Miami	57	79	.419	14½
Washington	56	79	.415	15

Central Division

Milwaukee	83	54	.606	–
Cincinnati	73	64	.533	10
St. Louis	69	65	.515	12½
Chicago	62	75	.453	21
Pittsburgh	48	88	.353	34½

West Division

Los Angeles	86	50	.632	–
San Francisco	86	50	.632	–
San Diego	72	64	.529	14
Colorado	63	73	.463	23
Arizona	45	92	.328	41½

THE GAME

From Page 19

77-71. Joe Sablan, however, had other ideas and responded with his own bomb from beyond the arc to make it 74-77 at the 2:29 mark of the ballgame.

After a botched offensive set by the Sixers, The Game's do-it-all point forward Richard McWilliams drove hard to the basket and scored on an athletic layup to make it a 1-point deficit.

Andrews came up big again 15 seconds later with his second straight hit from long distance that gave the Sixers' 4-point advantage. Not to be outdone, Jeff Sagum hit his own trifecta to make it 80-79 with 1:14 ticks in the heart-pounding match. The Sixers and The Game exchanged fruitless possessions before Jun Fidelino stole the ball from The Game's frontcourt and had a wide-open fastbreak layup but muffed it.

The Game will not blow its own opportunity in its next possession, however, as McWilliams dribbled inside the 3-point line before passing to Eric Joe for an alley-oop layup with 25.5 left in the game clock that turned out to be the final score, as the Sixers' desperation heaves from 3-point country and inside the paint were not answered.

McWilliams led The Game in the title-clinching victory with 28 points and 7 rebounds, while Joe, despite sustaining a leg injury 10 seconds into the game, still finished with a double-double with 11 points and 13 rebounds. Bouncy Jeff Sagum also delivered for coach Clint Albert's squad as he pumped in 20 points and hauled down 10 rebounds.

Andrews paced the Sixers in the tough loss with 19 points on top of 10 caroms, while Khristian Itaas chipped in 12 markers and hauled down 10 boards.

In the first game played a couple of hours earlier, The Game erased the Sixers' twice-to-beat advantage thanks to some timely baskets from Sagum, Sablan, and McWilliams.

They led by as much as 21 points, 69-48, with around 15 minutes left in the game but almost squandered it as the Sixers, led by Fidelino, made a game out of it before running out of gas in the end.

Sagum led all scorers in Game 1 with 25 points, while McWilliams and Joe supported him with 15 markers apiece. Fidelino scorched The Game with 24 markers of his own, while Andrews had another double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

The Game advanced to the finals after beating Ol'Aces in the semifinals last Saturday, 90-78. Ol'Aces earlier arranged a semis tiff with The Game following a 112-82 demolition of Blue Haus. On Friday, Ol'Aces and Blue Haus advanced following their wins over Pacific Auto and GMJ/IKKI, respectively. Ol'Aces eliminated Pacific Auto, 103-79, while Blue Haus disposed of Bolabois, 94-83.

First Game

The Game 88 – Sagum 25, McWilliams 15, Joe 15, Sablan 10, Blake 10, Bernardo 8, Deleon Guerrero 5.

Sixers 85 – Fidelino 24, Andrews 14, Aranda 14, Itaas 10, De Guzman 9, Flores 8, Leung 4, Javier 2.

Scoring by halves: 46-40, 88-85.

Second Game

The Game 81 – McWilliams 28, Sagum 20, Joe 11, Deleon Guerrero 15, Blake 3, Sablan 3.

Sixers 80 – Andrews 18, Flores 15, Itaas 12, Fidelino 11, De Guzman 10, Aranda 6, Leung 4, Brennan 3.

Scoring by halves: 43-42, 81-80.

MCWILLIAMS

From Page 19

the two-game finals that were both played last night. He had a key 3-pointer and an alley-oop pass to center Eric Joe that sealed the deal for the Clint Albert-coached The Game. He totaled 15 points, 9 rebounds, and 5 assists in Game 1 and turned it up a notch in Game 2 with 28 points, 7 boards, and 2 dole-outs.

"My teammates are the real heroes and God is great. Thank God for giving both teams great talent. Couldn't have done this without my boys," he said after the title-clinching win.

The San Diego, California native also gave kudos to Albert for coaching up the team when it mattered the most during the tourney.

"Coach Clint is a great strategist. He kept us level-headed and didn't allow us to fail ourselves," said the 30-year-old teacher at Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School.

The high-flying Santos, for his part, took the regular season MVP after averaging 21.8 points, 6.8 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 4.2 steals, and 0.5 blocks during the tournament.

"It honestly feels good but this is not the first time I've won MVP so I wasn't that excited. I did try my best to get to the championship game though," said the 20-year-old slam dunk champion.

RBA also recognized the tourney's Mythical Team and they were Santos, The Game teammates Jeff Sagum and Joe, Blue Haus' Darwin Barbo, and San Antonio Sixer point guard Jack Aranda.

Sagum averaged 14 points, 7 rebounds, 1.5 assists, 2.5 steals, and 1.0 blocks per game. Joe was the top-scorer for The Game with 15.4 points per outing on top of 11.8 boards and 1.0 steal per contest. For his part, Barbo averaged 11.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game. Aranda paced elimination round top-notcher Sixers with 11.5 points, 2.3 rebounds, 3.2 assists, and 1.5 steals per game.

Also given awards were the King of Blocks Dominic Faisao (3.0 blocks per game), King of Steals Douglas Schmidt (5.2 steals per game), King of Assists Elmer Esdrelon (4.5 assists per game), and King of Rebounds Jeril Gant (14.8 rebound per game).

NORTH

From Page 19

to emphasize that we're all having fun out there playing the sport but having and reaching for goals is really what gets the serious players' blood going," he said.

Race lamented that the other difficult aspect of multiple postponements due to COVID-19 is the timing.

"Over the last 30 years we had developed a pretty good 'periodization' program. It's common in sports. You try to time it so that your athletes reach their peak technically, tactically, physically, and mentally at the most important time of the year. Well, that's out the window at the moment…for everyone. So at least it's fair. We'll just keep on training and I think it's key into the immediate future, say 18 months, to just maintain a flexible attitude and hopefully we'll be ready to go when the opportunity presents itself. Or, at least, more ready to go than the other guys," he said.

CNMI junior players that get to go to the NPRC are determined by their junior ranking that NMITA keeps tabs on. Winners of the NPRC will then go on to compete in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji. Albeit, due to the multiple postponements a trip to the South Pacific late in the year is still a big question mark.

Severino's sacrifice fly in 9th sends Orioles past Yanks, 4-3

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rajon Rondo re-signs with Lakers for another title push

PAGE 19

The Game wins 2 to take championship

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Game beat previously undefeated San Antonio Sixers twice in the finals to annex the championship of the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament last night at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Game's Richard McWilliams plays stout defense against Sixers forward Jaymark De Guzman in Game 1 of their championship game last night. MARK RABAGO

After escaping with an 88-85 win in the first match, The Game rallied from 15 points down in the winner-take-all second game to win the championship in pulsating fashion, 81-80.

The Sixers were still in control of the game ahead by 10 points, 61-51, with 10:52 left. However, The Game outscored their opponents 20-13 in the next 7 minutes and change. The run was punctuated by a 3-pointer by Greg Deleon Guerrero that made it 74-71 with time down to 2:53.

Center Josh Andrews came to the rescue of the Sixers in their next possession by swishing his own 3-pointer to give his team a 6-point lead,

See THE GAME on Page 19

The Game players and coach Clint Albert show off their championship hardware after overcoming the San Antonio Sixers' twice-to-beat advantage in the finals to annex the championship of the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament last night at the Koblerville Gymnasium. MARK RABAGO

McWilliams hailed Finals MVP; Coby is regular season winner

The Mythical Team of the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament. From left, The Game's Eric Joe and Jeff Sagum, Blue Haus' Darwin Barbo, Ol'Aces' Coby Santos, and San Antonio Sixers' Jack Aranda. MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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The Game's Richard McWilliams and Ol'Aces' Coby Santos were named Finals MVP and regular season MVP, respectively, of the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament that concluded last night with an epic championship game at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The 6'0" McWilliams edged his teammate Jeff Sagum for the Finals MVP after averaging 21 points in

See MCWILLIAMS on Page 19

Jimin Woo, seen here in a file photo, topped the boys 18-and-under division Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association junior tennis rankings and is a shoe-in for this coming November's 2022 North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

North Pacific Regional Championships postponed anew

By MARK RABAGO
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The 2022 North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam has again been postponed with the annual tournament that pits the best junior tennis players in this part of the Pacific now set for November.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race said the tournament, which was originally slated in June then moved to September, has now been moved to November because of the U.S. territory's increasing cases of COVID-19. It was postponed altogether in 2020.

"It's been postponed until November. Guam has been averaging over 160 COVID-19 cases a day. No way to take kids into that situation this month. We'll just keep training. It's tough for several reasons," he said.

Race said majority of the CNMI's junior players are able to continue to train, but the multiple postponements of the NPRC and the succeeding Pacific Oceania Junior Championships are making it tough on the players.

"These young players have been preparing to play in regional and Pacific-wide tennis events for two years. It's their primary goal at this stage for most of them. If you don't have the opportunity to even pursue your goals, after a while you might start to ask yourself why you've been doing all this training and hard work? What's it for?" he said.

The CNMI National Tennis Team coach and CNMI Sports Hall of Famer said he tries his best to keep the Commonwealth's junior tennis players motivated.

"As a coach you try to keep your players motivated without the goals but it's a challenge. Some of the most focused kids are just rolling with the punches and patiently waiting for their chance. I try

See NORTH on Page 19